

MOST UP-TO-DATE CALENDAR IN NEW ENGLAND!

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Gay Community News

THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALES

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Who's Running the Show?

GayCommunityNews

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'Queerbashings Unrelated'

Homophobic Violence Unchallenged in Erie

By Micheline Justman

ERIE, Penn. — The murder trial of a man who admits to the homophobic slaying of a local gay man has elicited little comment from gay men and lesbians in this blue-collar Catholic city of 100,000 people. The state is prosecuting Wayne Green for the murder of Gregory Minadeo, the third murder of a gay man in the past three years here, years which have been punctuated by other, less grave incidents of homophobic violence. Local police have denied that the queerbashings are related to each other or the murders, and the gay community seems willing to accept this official version of what appears to be a rash of anti-gay violence.

A year ago Wayne Green confessed to police that he stabbed Gregory Minadeo, 48, to death on September 8, 1982, while yelling at the victim about his homosexuality.

On November 3, 1983, Wayne Green accepted his lawyers' advice that it would be in his best interests

not to testify in the non-jury trial before Judge William Pfadt, who will render a verdict on Green within the next 30 days.

Green's mother testified at his trial that he had been abusing drugs and alcohol for eight years and that he had tried to kill himself three times.

When Green and his girlfriend showed up in Jamestown in Minadeo's stolen car after the murder in Erie, his mother, protecting her family from whom he had stolen before, told him to go to the police.

Threatening suicide again, he returned to Erie and turned himself into Hamot Medical Center Mental Health.

Meanwhile, police from Erie, Millcreek, Presque Isle State Park, Jamestown and Chautauqua were cooperating closely to trace connections between the Minadeo slaying and the earlier unsolved murder of Elmer Hagmann, an Erie school teacher last seen alive

leaving the Filmore Bookstore in Erie and found stabbed to death in his Millcreek residence.

Police said both men were single, repeatedly stabbed, and still wearing gold and diamond jewelry, ruling out robbery as a motive. Although at the time neither victim was identified in the local press as gay, Erie's gay community knew both men.

Following Hagmann's "frenzied murder" on April 29, 1982, a gay man was knifed at Griswold Plaza, a cruising area, on May 2 and his car was stolen. He reported this to the police and his name and the circumstances were printed in the local newspaper. A few days later another man was stabbed at Griswold, but he avoided publicity by reporting that he was mugged elsewhere in town when he sought emergency treatment. Then on September 8, Minadeo was murdered. But there may have been other attacks on gay men which were unreported.

Recently questioned as to whether the stabbings were identified by the police as a rash of crimes against gay men and if the police had increased surveillance at the bars, bookstores, beach and Griswold Plaza last summer, a police officer replied that the events were not thought to be related. He also said the only time additional police are assigned to gay sites are "as undercover police looking for drugs, but not to arrest homosexuals."

By September 25, 1982, police had traced Minadeo's car to Jamestown and Green to Hamot, where he was arraigned on a homicide charge and on a felony fugitive warrant for a 1981 robbery in New York state. Police then said that the murders of Minadeo and Hagmann were "not necessarily related." Nothing more has been released about Hagmann's murder. Since the Erie school district has had two other sex-related scandals recently — a high school girl murdered by a male teacher and a marriage between a 14-year-old student and her 38-year-old teacher — it is speculated in Erie's gay community that Hagmann's case has been dropped to avoid further embarrassment to the school district, since investigation would reveal the deceased teacher's homosexuality.

At the time of the arrest, Green told police, "I was glad I was caught." He was committed to Warren State Hospital for mental evaluation beginning October 1, 1982 for 90 days at a cost of \$15,500.

Defense attorney Bradley Foulk began a series of delaying tactics: requesting an additional, independent psychiatric exam in February, 1983; requesting a competency hearing; objecting to the appointment of Assistant District Attorney Shad Connelly as prosecutor; invoking husband-wife privileges that would rule invalid testimony obtained from Sharon Crissy, Green's girlfriend; requesting that Judge Pfadt rule on the constitutionality of Pennsylvania's felony murder law, which the defense wants repealed because it does not require malice, and malice must be present for convictions of first or third degree murder. The prosecution is asking for a verdict of first degree murder and the death penalty. Foulk is anticipating that the request on the felony murder doctrine will be denied, and then this will be used for appeal to a higher court later.

Another defense maneuver was to waive the right to trial by jury and to request to be tried by the Judge alone. The Green case is the first local capital case to be tried without a jury. Judge Pfadt will hear the evidence, consider the defense and issue a verdict, from acquittal to first degree murder. If convicted a jury will be called in to sentence Green (life imprisonment or death in the electric chair) and another trial will be presented to inform the jury of the case.

The first newspaper mention of the case as a crime against a gay man appeared in February, 1983: "The police investigation determined Minadeo was a homosexual."

Continued on page 3

Nine 'Does,' One Reagan Jailed in South Carolina

By Janice Irvine

BAMBERG, S.C. — "We're nine Jane Does here, and one Nancy Reagan," said Jane Doe No. 1. Reagan and the Does are a group of feminists and lesbians who have been imprisoned since October 24 in the 'Bamberg County Jail for acts of civil disobedience at the Savannah River Plant in South Carolina.

In concert with scores of demonstrations around the country during the international days of protest against the Euromissiles, October 21 to October 24, the actions at the Savannah River Plant were planned by the Natural Guard, a group which has been protesting there for several years. Known locally as the Savannah River Bomb Plant, Doe #1 told GCN that the facility manufactures plutonium for nuclear weapons and reprocessed nuclear fuel.

Nine of the women are from Florida, and came up to the plant for a peace encampment the weekend before the civil disobedience. On October 24 they blocked entrances to the plant. Seventy-nine people were arrested and charged with disobeying a police officer.

After the arrests, all but the ten women had given their names, posted bail, and been released. As an affinity group, the Does had agreed to non-cooperation and refused to post bail to gain their release. They were joined in jail by Reagan, who is from North Carolina. "Nancy Reagan just sort of came along, but she's been living in this area and has participated in every action at the bomb plant they've had," said Doe No. 1.

The women, many of whom had participated in actions at Seneca, Livermore, and Diablo Canyon, were in jail for 16 days, until their trial and release on November 8. During that time they received national attention, with coverage on National Public Radio, and by the AP wireservice. Doe No. 9 said, "It's been successful in a couple of ways. We're pleased with the amount of attention we've drawn

to the issues. Also, we're happy about the people we've reached personally, in the community and in jail, and with what it's done for building the strength of our own group."

According to attorney Bob Hallman, the women were tried in Aiken County, South Carolina, and had agreed to give their names and make statements to the court. Although some pled guilty and other pled not guilty, the judge found them all guilty and sentenced them to 11 days in jail. Because the women's 16 days of incarceration counts towards that sentence, they were immediately released.

A former employee of the Savannah River Plant, George Couch, served as a c.d. support person for the ten women. Couch, who worked at the plant for over 22 years, is a victim of polychthemia vera, a rare blood disease which, according to Couch's physician, is caused by either high altitude or radiation.

Couch, who has lived at low altitude all his life, believes his sickness has been caused by the working at the plant. Although he has filed a worker's compensation suit against the Savannah River Plant, he has been unsuccessful in settling his claim for damages.

When asked by GCN about his participation in the protests, Couch said, "I am a polychthemia vera victim of the bomb plant. If anybody has a right to do this, I do. People thank me for doing this and I say, 'I'm the one who should thank you. You're doing something for me.'"

Meanwhile, Reagan and the Does are planning further anti-militarist actions. From her cell at the Bamberg County Jail, Doe No. 1 told GCN, "We're sitting up there right now plotting a women's peace walk from Gainesville to Key West." Covering a distance of over 400 miles, the purpose of the walk is to draw attention to disarmament and to demonstrate for peace in Central America.

The women have released a statement from jail concerning

their imprisonment for c.d. at the bomb plant. In part, it reads:

We are women who can no longer simply write our congresspersons as we read of another crime against peace and freedom perpetrated in our names as American citizens. . .

Pressure from State House

Boston Council Makes 'Fair Housing' Exemptions

By Larry Goldsmith

BOSTON — Bowing to behind-the-scenes pressure from members of the state legislature, the Boston City Council voted 8 to 1 on November 2 to exempt two- and three-family owner-occupied houses from the city's Fair Housing Ordinance, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of "race, color, religious creed, marital status, military status, handicap, children, national origin, sex, age, ancestry, sexual preference or source of income."

A number of councillors who had previously indicated opposition to such an exemption voted for the amendment, including Bruce Bolling, sponsor of the ordinance. Mayoral candidate and councillor Ray Flynn cast the only vote against the exemption.

"I voted with the majority on the amendment so that hopefully there could be some pressure brought to bear for the home rule petition in the state legislature," Bolling told GCN.

Since the beginning of this legislative session, a home rule petition authorizing the city to assess penalties and issue cease and desist orders to individuals violating the ordinance has been stalled in the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. Rep. Michael Flaherty (D-So. Boston), who chairs the committee, said during

committee hearing last August that he opposed protections based on sexual preference.

"If I own a three decker and Gerry Studts wants to rent an apartment in my building," Flaherty complained, "I have to rent to him or I'm in trouble. But say I don't want him in my building. Say I have a family and young children . . . If I don't rent it to him I will have opened myself up to a complete investigation."

"I think it's very unfortunate," said Frank Jones, chairperson of the Fair Housing Commission. "It was a terrible mistake. It exempts 40 percent of the housing stock in the entire city and 75 percent of the housing available to low- and moderate-income people. It will result in exclusionary housing in many areas of the city."

According to Jones, opponents of the ordinance have blocked the home rule petition, saying that they object specifically to application of the ordinance to two- and three-family owner-occupied houses. "We are now trying to say, and we have gotten the city council to say 'This was the problem you said you had with the ordinance. Now let's get moving on the home rule petition.'"

One councillor who has vehemently opposed ordinance

from the start is Albert "Dapper" O'Neil. During debate on the amendment, O'Neil told his colleagues, "I've been through forced busing, I've been through forced hiring and now we have forced housing."

Jones said he thought objections raised to protections on the basis of sexual preference were actually "a front" for wholesale objection to the ordinance. "It has been easy for those politicians over at the State House to say that they will deny rights to gay people," Jones told GCN. "So yes, they have exploited the gay community. But it's an issue that goes beyond gay people, it's a question of race as well."

"I think it was the safest for people who are bigoted," noted Brian McNaught, mayoral liaison to the lesbian and gay community in Boston. "But people opposed to renting a two- or three-family house to a gay person would be just as opposed to renting to a person who is black. It's still socially acceptable to be anti-gay."

A spokesperson for Mayor Kevin White could not say whether White would sign the newly-amended ordinance. White has previously indicated he would be opposed to any exemptions to the legislation.

News Notes

quote of the week

"Homosexuals do their best to keep their physical fitness up so they can indoctrinate [others]."

— Rev. John Martelli of the Moral Majority explained why we pump iron on "People Are Talking" WBZ-TV Channel 4, Boston, on Nov. 8. Martelli and Berkeley gay Boy Scout Tim Curran appeared on the program to discuss gay people as role models for children. In a telephone poll conducted during the show, respondents who believed that gay people can be good role models outvoted the naysayers on the question by about 75 votes.

aids statistics released by cdc

ATLANTA — Figures released on Oct. 19 by the Centers for Disease Control indicate that 39.9 percent of people with AIDS are non-whites. Included in that figure are: black (non-Haitian), 21.1 percent; Haitian, 4.7 percent; Latinos, 14.1 percent; Asians and Native Americans, less than one percent each; and other ethnic groups, 2.2 percent. Of the total 2513 AIDS cases, 57.9 percent of the affected persons are white. CDC statistics attributed 1048 deaths to AIDS, for a mortality rate of 41.7 percent.

rotc in wisconsin

MADISON, WI — A University of Wisconsin (UW) committee commissioned to study the school's anti-discrimination policy will not recommend specific action against ROTC or other federal agencies which practice employment discrimination against gay men and lesbians, according to *Out!* newspaper.

Two committee members commented that ROTC would not be banned from campus because UW has extensive economic ties to the U.S. Department of Defense. The DoD has threatened to cut research contracts with universities which bar military recruiting.

The school's chancellor has stated that he will not enforce the state's anti-bias law unless a court orders him to do so. Wisconsin's gay/lesbian rights bill bans employment discrimination against gay men and lesbians.

Student activists have commented that the committee didn't want to do "more than they absolutely had to do" to challenge anti-discrimination on campus.

In a related development on the other side of the state, students at the UW-Milwaukee campus say they are prepared to begin a lawsuit which could sever that school's ties with the ROTC program. The school's contract with ROTC was extended for one year this fall by Chancellor Frank Horton. A committee composed of faculty members and students recommended last May that ROTC should be required to stop discriminating against gay men and lesbians. In spite of this, Horton renewed the contract to "seek advice" from ROTC administrators and officials of the University of Wisconsin system.

blood sisters

LOS ANGELES — A blood drive organized by lesbians in the Los Angeles area will be held on Dec. 17 "to replenish the sorely depleted blood donor supply from which many gay men have voluntarily excluded themselves," according to the *Lesbian News*.

The blood drive is co-sponsored by Lesbian Central of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center and the Long Beach Lambda Democratic Club.

Lengthy negotiations were conducted with the Red Cross to plan the drive. Organizers hope that a good response from the community will "demonstrate our responsibility and concern in this time of turmoil and tragedy surrounding AIDS."

virginia custody decision a first

ALEXANDRIA, VA — An August 29 ruling by a Fairfax County Court judge marks the first time a Virginia court has awarded custody privileges to a parent who is openly gay, according to the *Washington Blade*.

Judge Richard J. Jamborsky's decision left intact a joint custody arrangement between a gay man and his ex-wife, who sought sole custody of their eight-year-old daughter because the father's relationship with his lover would have a damaging effect on the child. Jamborsky disagreed, saying, "In this particular case, there is no competent evidence that the father's conduct has had an adverse impact on the child." But the judge stipulated that the father may not share "the same bed or bedroom with any male lover or friend while the child is present in the home."

The father and his lover agreed to this condition of custody because "both of us love my daughter and want her to stay with us," according to the father. The custody agreement grants primary custody to the father during the school year and primary custody to the mother during summer vacations.

socializing students lose charter

DURHAM, NC — A gay students' group at Duke University lost its charter on Oct. 6 after the student government president was advised that the group's purpose violates North Carolina law, according to *The Front Page*.

The Duke Gay and Lesbian Alliance (DGLA) had been an approved student group at the school for the past eleven years. But, Bill Brutton, president of the Associated Students of Duke University (ASDU) vetoed DGLA's charter after school lawyer Stewart Sessoms advised him that North Carolina law prohibits encouragement of homosexual activity. DGLA's charter identifies one purpose of the group as "promoting a social setting for gays and lesbians."

DGLA may rewrite its charter so an educational purpose function is fulfilled, rather than a social one.

One Raleigh attorney, however, noted that Brutton's interpretation of the law was at least selective, if not outright homophobic. John H. Boddie told *The Front Page*, "The crime against nature law prohibits both heterosexual and homosexual anal sex. The law does not prohibit gays and lesbians from getting together for social purposes."

"Of course two guys who met at a DGLA meeting could be arrested if they had sex afterward. But the same could happen to a man and a woman who met at a fraternity mixer and then engaged in oral sex. I don't imagine Duke will get rid of its fraternities just because they promote social events that might lead to technical violations of an archaic law," Boddie said.

feminist perspectives on ageism

SAN FRANCISCO — An anthology on aging from a feminist perspective is being compiled for use in women's studies and gerontology studies, as well as for political organizing and consciousness raising.

Polly Taylor seeks articles, fiction, cartoons, drawings, photos, interviews, personal experience and feminist theory for "Feminist Perspectives on Ageism." Materials for submission should demonstrate a high level of political consciousness around issues of age, sex, class, race, physical appearance, lesbianism, anti-Semitism and ethnic/religious identity.

Submissions must be received by March 15, 1984. Include a self-addressed envelope and send to: Feminist Perspectives on Ageism, c/o Polly Taylor, 904 Irving St., #258, San Francisco, CA 94122.

no movies, no munchies at sack theaters

BOSTON — The Disabled People's Liberation Front (DPLF) has called for a boycott of all Sack Theaters and, for persons who choose to patronize the theaters, a boycott of the concession stands.

The theater concession stand boycott is the latest in the five-year ongoing struggle to gain equal access for disabled people at the metro-wide chain of movie theaters. DPLF in its struggle with Saxon Industries, owner of the theaters has employed many tactics, ranging from negotiations to picket lines with members chaining themselves to the theater doors and, now, the boycott.

The response of the company is perhaps best summarized in its president's words. A. Alan Friedburg, in a letter to a boycott supporter, said, "Neither we nor society generally can afford the luxury of failing properly to prioritize in an imperfect society which must look more closely at cost benefit ratios."

DPLF requests that boycott supporters send brief statements of support to Friedburg at Sack Theater, 141 Tremont, Boston 02111.

panicked hets

SAN FRANCISCO — The *Bay Area Reporter* notes that the "homosexual panic" defense, used unsuccessfully in a bay area murder case last summer, is gaining popularity around the state as a defense against murder charges. Three more cases in California surfaced in which defense lawyers claim that their clients killed their victims in states of "diminished capacity." The killers supposedly panicked after they were sexually approached by the murdered men. The *BAR* also reports that unmarried men are being eliminated from juries, apparently in an attempt to clear juries of gay jurors.

immigration cases

Immigration lawyers are getting their passports to the Supreme Court in order in the event the separate cases of Carl Hill and Richard Longstaff reach the high court.

While Hill involves immigration and Longstaff involves naturalization, the issues are very similar. Both cases recently reached the circuit court levels where contradictory rulings were handed down by the Ninth and Fifth Circuits respectively.

In the Hill case, National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA), a public interest law firm, argued that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) can no longer exclude gay people from the country since the mechanism prescribed by Congress for doing so is no longer available. The "mechanism" is a certificate from the Public Health Service (PHS) essentially stating that a gay person is a mentally ill or sexually deviant personality, based on the American Psychiatric Association's classification. Since APA changed their thinking on the matter, the PHS followed this lead and refuses to issue the certificate to gay people.

The same argument was made in the Longstaff case when he was refused naturalization by INS after being in the country for 18 years.

NGRA attorney Leonard Graff is now in the process of preparing an appeal to the Supreme Court in the case of Longstaff. The Fifth Circuit has already turned down an appeal before the full panel of nine judges.

James Hunolt of the Justice Department's Immigration Division told *GCN* that they are appealing the Hill decision to the full court of the Ninth Circuit. Graff told *GCN* that since the original decision of the partial panel was unanimous, he expects that the Ninth will refuse to hear the appeal.

The Supreme Court will not consider any new appeals before next October when their new term begins, so a judicial resolution of the issue appears to be at least a year away.

michigan's first rights bill

LANSING, MI — Michigan's first statewide gay and lesbian rights bill has been introduced in the House of Representatives, according to *GayLife*. The bill has 23 co-sponsors, which is 22% of the total House membership.

The Michigan Organization for Human Rights, co-ordinator of lobbying efforts for the bill, chose Rep. Jim Dressel, a Republican from conservative Grand Haven, Mich., to be the chief sponsor of the bill. Another co-sponsor, Rep. Perry Bullard, chairs the Judiciary Committee, which is expected to send the bill on to the full House for consideration. Activists say the bill will probably fare better in the House than the Senate.



anti-cruisers

LONDON — A gay activist from Cambridge, Mass. reports that a sizable number of lesbians and gay men marched in a contingent on Oct. 22 in a mass demonstration to protest the planned deployment of Pershing and Cruise missiles to Western Europe. The contingent, numbering about 200, joined a crowd estimated at between 200,000 and 600,000, depending on who was accounting. Although the designated queer contingent was mostly men, our reporter said he saw many lesbians and other gay men along the route, "looking for our contingent or other ones. Undoubtedly there were more gay contingents."

"What struck me most about the march in general was the great diversity of the crowd. There were many young people, of course, but there were also people in their 40s, 50s, 60s and on up," he said.

Some gay/lesbian groups carrying signs in the contingent were the Cambridge (England) Gay Activists, Gays for a Nuclear Free Future, Consenting Adults in Public, Campaign for Homosexual Equality, Gay Youth Movement, Gay Sweatshop and Lesbian and Gay Socialist Group. One somewhat cryptic sign read "Gay Actor Vegetarian Asthmatic Squatters Against the Bomb."

Federation of AIDS-Related Organizations

AIDS: Organizing, Reporting, Testifying

By Christine Guilfooy

SAN FRANCISCO — The Federation of AIDS-Related Organizations (FARO), an alliance formed this past June in Denver, has scheduled a press conference in San Francisco for November 13. At the conference, federation organizers will detail its progress in meeting initial goals as well as mapping out future directions.

The press conference culminates a weekend-long meeting of the steering committee which will also be dealing with the federation's internal structure and its methods of funding.

Currently, funds are supplied by member organizations which pay dues of \$50 per month. In addition, several large grants were made by organizations to fund the lobbying project.

FARO was founded at the National AIDS Forum held in Denver in June 1983, and had an initial membership of 38 organizations. FARO has since grown to become a 56-member organization. At the time of its formation, York City and home of the clear-

inghouse. Vachon currently gathers information from the member organizations which will be cataloged into a national directory of AIDS information and services.

Vachon told *GCN* that the directory is approximately 178 pages long, is still growing, and will be subject to revision. The clearinghouse acts to keep members in touch with each other and Vachon says that he currently receives about 15 phone calls per day.

Bernice Goodman, a co-chair of FARO, told *GCN* that the information gathered and categorized by the clearinghouse can be used to assess needs in the areas of AIDS funding and research. "[The clearinghouse will] act as an arm to facilitate the lobbying project. We would have a vehicle to say this is what is happening, this is what we've done, this is what we need to do. It is a vehicle for the lesbian/gay community to get money and determine how it is spent."

two major projects were developed, a lobbying project and a resource clearinghouse.

On the lobbying side, the federation hired an experienced lobbyist, Gerry Connor, who began part-time work on August 1. Connor told *GCN* that he has laid basic groundwork by contacting congressional staff members. In addition, he said he has worked to develop coalitions with fellow lobbyists who may be helpful to him, such as lobbyists from some of the major cities and the Public Health Association lobbyist.

Connors also has gathered information regarding funding appropriations for AIDS, information which will be used in determining future strategies in Congress.

The lobbying project is headed by Paul Popham, president of Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City.

The resource clearinghouse is headed by Ron Vachon, director of the National Gay Health Education Foundation, also in New

Goodman also said that they eventually hope to get the directory computerized.

FARO is committed to having persons with AIDS represented at all levels of the organization.

* * *

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Public Health Council on November 8 instituted an emergency regulation mandating the reporting of AIDS cases by physicians and hospitals.

According to John Narkunas of the Communicable Disease section of the Public Health Department, guidelines for reporting procedures have not yet been issued, so the regulation itself is not binding as of yet.

But Narkunas told *GCN* that given the nature of the disease, he thinks that AIDS cases are currently being reported anyway. He said that the new regulations will "settle fears and concerns [that physicians have] of liability about reporting people."

Petra Langer, a spokesperson for the Department of Public Health, told *GCN* that she expects patients' names will be required of reporting physicians but that "at some point, we eliminate the names. I'm not exactly sure where."

Narkunas, however, said that use of patients' names is not yet established and that the ultimate decision will be made by the Commissioner of Public Health, who will seek the advice of the Governor's AIDS Task Force.

Currently, the Commonwealth's five reportable diseases require that names be supplied to the Public Health Department, which, according to Narkunas, has never had a problem with confidentiality.

Cases that will be reported will not be limited to those manifesting

Kaposi's sarcoma or pneumocystitis but will also involve, according to Narkunas, "anything that comes out of a compromised immune system that isn't due to drugs or medication."

* * *

WASHINGTON — In a final AIDS-related development, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) has written a letter to Orrin Hatch of Utah, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, requesting hearings this year on AIDS.

Kennedy's letter reads, in part, "Although the Administration has declared AIDS the nation's number one health priority, accurate information is not always reaching the public... Therefore, we strongly urge that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources hold hearings this fall in order to provide a national forum to alleviate unrestricted public fear of the disease and its victims [sic] and also to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of what the Federal government is doing about this public health problem."

Jeff Levi, of the NGTF Washington office, told *GCN* that while he appreciates Kennedy's interest, he is concerned that hearings before this committee would not be "the best forum." Levi pointed out that the minority side would have difficulty controlling discussion on a committee which has such well-known conservative senators as Jeremiah Denton of Alabama and John East of North Carolina.

Some observers feel that rather than discussing AIDS as a public health issue, it will degenerate to a discussion of morality.

Kennedy's office has not yet received a reply from Senator Hatch.

Medical Technician Fights Anti-Gay Firing

By Christine Guilfooy

MIL0, ME — An emergency medical technician who has been relieved of his duties in the local ambulance service plans to sue for libel and slander, claiming charges against him are trumped up and that he was dismissed because he is gay.

Terry Wallace, a native of Milo, was accused in writing of drinking alcohol while on duty, exposing his penis to a group of women, and propositioning male co-workers "with dirty words." Wallace charges that not only are the accusations untrue, but underlying them and his subsequent firing is small-town homophobia.

Ronald Coles, Wallace's attorney told *GCN*, "Terry was libelled by one or more ambulance attendants in order to get him ousted. It's an action of libel and slander with overtones of discrimination against gays and that is how it will be presented."

During the dismissal proceedings, the service accepted written complaints regarding Wallace who was neither allowed to ask questions of his accusers nor insist that they provide evidence. Wallace was subsequently voted out by the membership.

Milo, population 2624, is just northwest of Bangor. Individuals volunteer a specified number of

hours to the service and receive payment for runs they actually complete. The Milo area is served by the Three Rivers Ambulance Service.

Wallace told *GCN* that he grew up in the Milo area and moved away for a number of years, returning recently to be near his parents, one of whom is ill. Wallace said that it is common knowledge that he is gay, and that he "prefers the honesty."

Thus far, Wallace has been unable to begin court proceedings due to a lack of financial resources. He is currently attempting to raise the \$750 needed to obtain depositions from witnesses in his behalf.

Wallace was accused by Audrey Branum of two separate incidents of drinking on the job. Branum, who was assistant chief of the service at the time, is now the chief. Wallace told *GCN* that he has letters from people who were present during the time of the alleged incidents who state that they saw no evidence that the charge was true.

Ed Zillinski, chief of the service at the time the accusation was made, told *GCN* that in the time he worked with Wallace, he never smelled liquor on his breath and doubted that Wallace ever drank while on duty. In discussing Wallace's competency, Zillinski said, "As an EMT, Terry did an

excellent job. He was nothing but professional in the back of that ambulance."

Wallace is in need of funds to fight the case, and promises that any monetary gain that he receives from the case will be donated to gay organizations and AIDS-related foundations. Donations can be sent to Terry Wallace Defense Fund, Box 215, Augusta, Maine 04330.

Mexican Activists Organize Against Police

By John Kyper

MEXICO CITY — Gay activists have been mobilizing in response to increased police repression in Guadalajara, Tijuana, in the capital city and other Mexican cities, according to a recent communique issued here by the Grupo Lambda de Liberacion Homosexual. The organization charges that the police have been using the program of President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, *renovacion moral de la sociedad*, as the pretext for harassing gays and other marginalized sectors of society (see *GCN* Vol. 10, No. 25).

De la Madrid assumed the Presidency last December in the midst of the worst economic crisis in Mexico's recent history. *Renovacion moral* had been his campaign slogan when running for president. De la Madrid took rhetorical aim at the massive corruption that had become pandemic during the six-year rule of his predecessor, Jose Lopez Portillo.

But angry gays accuse the authorities of choosing targets more vulnerable and visible than dishonest officials, who are generally too well-connected to face punishment for their crimes.

The Grupo Orgullo Homosexual de Liberacion (GOHL — Gay Pride and Liberation) of Guadalajara has been protesting the systematic crackdown on gay meeting places, after the state of Jalisco enacted a harsh new anti-prostitution law a year ago. In the largest and most notorious incident, last July, dozens of machine gun-wielding police invaded a gay party in the neighboring town of Zapopan. More than 250 people

were arrested and held incommunicado for several hours in cramped cells. Some remained in jail for three days.

Those arrested lost personal property and had to pay stiff fines to secure their freedom and to recover their cars and personal papers. The event has come to be called "*la redada del millon*" ("the raid of the million") because a million pesos in fines and bribes (\$6,500) were collected by the police. It has become the focus of demonstrations and other protests, including a letter-writing campaign to the governor of Jalisco, Enrique Alvarez del Castillo, and to the majors of Zapopan and Guadalajara. Letters to those men demand that the raids cease, that those responsible be punished, and that the money "extorted" by police be returned to the victims and the arrest records destroyed.

Gays in the border city of Tijuana are also organizing to counter police harassment. A bilingual flier sponsored by several local groups including the Frente Internacional de las Garantias Humanas de Tijuana (FIGHT) and Grupo Liberalista advises arrestees not to pay money or jewelry to the police, but to wait until support services and protests are organized. Those not arrested are urged to participate in a protest rally at police headquarters.

Ever since last June's gay marches (see *GCN* Vol. 11, No. 2), police in Mexico City have been conducting widespread raids against "prostitutes, people of unusual habits, loafers and

'lowlife,' to protect the citizenry against antisocial persons and delinquents." Repression is especially severe in the posh Zona Rosa neighborhood, a popular gay cruising area. Each weekend, officers arrest, rob and even beat "suspicious" persons walking the streets of Zona Rosa or coming out of the bars or baths. In mid-July plainclothes agents of the Procuraduria General de la Republica (Attorney General) attacked Grupo Lambda's office and detained two members of the group.

The Grupo Lambda statement charges that *renovacion moral*, while ostensibly directed against public corruption, "has been interpreted to attack social minorities, prostitutes, homosexuals and unemployed youth as scapegoats in the face of the grave economic situation that wracks the country. We know that in periods of sharp crisis the state always invokes social morality in order to maintain control over the population...."

A parallel development, it adds, is the way in which the press and governmental agencies like the Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social (IMSS) have sensationalized AIDS, inflating the number of cases that have appeared in Mexico and exaggerating the susceptibility of the general public to what they term "the gay cancer."

Readers may contact GOHL at Apartado Postal 1-1693, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico; and Grupo Lambda at A.P. 73-130, Mexico 12, D.F.

— filed from Boston

Erie

Continued from page 1

ual" (Erie Morning News). Minadeo worked as a furniture salesman at the Millcreek Mall.

Testimony, beginning in October, 1983, stated "the motive of the slaying was apparently robbery, police records indicate," although Green was never charged with robbery in this case. Police accounts of Green's statement at the time of his arrest give this version of the story: Green, a pool shark at a local restaurant, asked for and accepted a ride from Minadeo to the docks to smoke pot. When Minadeo allegedly "put his hand on my leg" Green pulled his "razor sharp, I mean razor sharp" knife and stabbed him, "and I kept stabbing him."

Friends of Minadeo's parents, to whom he was not out as a gay man, say that police and the attorneys interviewed 300 people who knew him to obtain a profile of the victim, and "not one person

had a negative word to say."

A friend of his recalls many pleasant hours biking along Presque Isle beaches. "He was kind, and would never hurt anyone. I don't believe he would continue with an unwanted advance. He harbored no violence, no anger, only trust, honesty and openness. He liked friendship, fun, sex perhaps. He had a heart of gold. He was easy-going, I guess naive about danger. The people most dangerous to gay people are those who harbor some fear of being gay themselves. Greg was not out to his parents, and I only wish they could have been protected. How sad our society is, having to protect someone from the knowledge that someone else is gay. He was private about his personal life, yet our last conversation was about how public we have to be — bars, Griswold, beaches — with our private lives."

Community Voices

DOUBLE SPACE YOUR LETTERS!!!

Gay Community News welcomes letters to Community Voices. **If at all possible, your letters should be TYPED AND DOUBLE SPACED and kept to three pages (or less!) in length.** *GCN* publishes all the letters it receives, unedited, on a space-available basis, unless they contain personal attacks. Anonymous letters will not be published, but names will be withheld upon request. Address letters to:

Community Voices, *Gay Community News*, 167 Tremont St., 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111.

“wimpy ways”

Dear *GCN*:

I've been watching to see if anyone would respond to Nancy Wechsler's review of Betsy Rose's Sept. 24 concert. Since no one else has — surprisingly, considering the incredible enthusiasm shown by the audience — I feel that I must.

Nancy was clearly trying not to be insulting and hurtful in her review, but I think she was anyway. Her analysis of Betsy's politics — that she is a wimp in the face of the New Right — is absurd. Maybe the only *truly* “aggressive” response to the New Right consists in what Betsy calls “building bridges” — seeing commonalities with other people, having compassion for differences, refusing to perpetuate divisions. And I think it would be truly wimpy to react to the New Right, as Nancy seems to think we should, by refusing to explore and discuss openly the complexity of our feelings about things like having children and families. If we don't recognize our pain and longing, they are likely to affect our politics in insidious ways. Betsy's “gentle” style, to which Nancy objects, may be our best hope right now.

I too wish that Betsy had included a song like “Gay Spirit.” But she did include one very personal and, to me, very gay song about relating to both women and men. Considering the audience — and the review — this may have been *more* “rebellious,” not less. In fact, I suspect that an entire subtext of the review, as evidenced by code words such as “unaggressive,” “too uncritical” and “ambivalent,” reads that, since Betsy has started raising the issue of bisexuality in her music, she's just not as politically correct as she used to be. I know Nancy didn't say it point blank, but I still heard it. I don't think this is paranoia.

In struggle still,
Lisa Orlando

PS: I noticed an interesting juxtaposition in last week's paper: a letter about the problems of black gay men who have a sexual preference for white men with the rewritten classified policy forbidding people to express such preferences in personal ads. Actually, I don't think the policy goes far enough. *GCN* should forbid the expression of *all* preferences structured by oppressive differences, including age (“boys”), physical type (“well-built”), culture (“J”), class (“professional”) and gender — after all, if it's racist to prefer one race, isn't it sexist to prefer one sex?

racism in ads

The Editors:

We were upset to read personal ads in *Gay Community News* that begin with the initials GWF—which we take to mean Gay White Feminist. We don't understand the use of the word white. Does it mean that the woman who placed the ad wants to meet other gay white women in order to share an interest in white culture or in being white?

We can think of several reasons why women who are members of groups that are discriminated against might want to include group identification in an ad. First, they might want to avoid discriminatory encounters. Second, they may want to meet women who have had similar experiences in day-to-day struggles against discrimination. They may also want to use group identification to make links that help preserve diversity in a society that is set up to crush differences.

However, in ads when women define themselves as white, they are perpetuating and reinforcing discriminatory structures. Social networks are real structures. The people we are friends with are the people with whom we share: job leads, child care and school information, housing leads, political conversations, ideas, concerns, and a variety of resources. They are also the people with whom we develop communities and decide: who to vote for; what causes to back; how and where to spend our money; how to shape relationships with children, friends and families; and what meaning and purpose to give our lives.

How we build our social networks is an issue of concern for all of us. In closing we ask: What is *Gay Community News'* policy for dealing with discriminatory ads?

Marie Ariel
Jan Lennon
Cambridge, MA

Ed. It has been GCN's policy for some time to discourage the use of racial indicators by running a blurb in the Personals section. It is of course illegal to use such designations in housing or employment ads. We discussed the issues raised in this letter and, while we generally agree, we felt uneasy about making a policy to disallow this practice. We would, however, like to hear what other readers think, so please send in your comments to Community Voices. In the meantime, we continue our policy of questioning and discouraging the use of terms designating race.

time to be safe

Dear *GCN*,

I'd like to add a different point of view on Betsy Rose's recent concert at the Old Cambridge Baptist Church. I'm a lesbian who is fighting strongly for my right and desire to have no limits imposed on my sense of ‘belonging’ in the world. I have very much enjoyed standing on the edge of the counterculture, pushing the boundaries, but now I've chosen to take some time to feel completely safe and powerful right in the middle of things.

For me, this has meant making close and enduring relationships with men, with married couples and with right wingers. I don't lump them together because of their similarities, but because they share the crowd of humans that homophobic patterns tell me it isn't really safe to be close to. I'm not making these new relationships a priority because it's politically expedient, but because there are things I want to know about people, and things I want to share, and because powerful women belong everywhere, taking risks and tak-

call of the whip

Dear *GCN*,

You asked me to say more about the ‘institutionalization’ of prisoners, their becoming completely dependent on the joint. Well, some prisoners find safety in confinement and do not want to be released. The world out there is so hard to get back into after you've been in here that in some ways it's easier just to stay in here, as far as basic physical needs goes. Getting a job after you've been here in times like these is just about impossible.

You'd think that since people confined in these places share some common causes, that there would be more togetherness. But it doesn't work that way. In fact, many of the prisoners go beyond the call of the whip to accommodate themselves to prison despite the degree of inhumane, deplorable and squalid conditions in which we have to live.

Why, for example, so many prisoners address guards by using the term ‘boss’ is beyond me. I would assume that many do so only on the basis of monkey-see-monkey-do, and the rest as a means of pleasing the master for favors, acting like a slave who is happy only when his master is happy. In some ways I suppose it's not so very different from the way so many gay people act in the face of a government that treats them like shit.

Some prisoners struggle harder than the officials to keep the court-ordered reforms from going through. They're comfortable in their security (slavery) and become angry with others when they make waves or don't obey to the letter the orders and rules of the officials.

Of course, all prisoners don't act like this, but enough do that the place is a bit of a mad house with people fighting all the time about things that if they thought about it they really don't care about, being rude to each other when we could be getting together and helping each other out and learning something about ourselves while we do it.

In mad struggle,
A prisoner
(Name withheld)

**Have a Question?
LESBIAN AND GAY
HOTLINE has the answer.
6pm-Midnight, Mon-Fri
426-9371**

ing other people along for the ride.

Betsy's concert not only inspired me to jump back in with greater humor and self love, but it also reminded me that she's out there in the middle with me. There are some very difficult things about working out on the edges in this country and the people who do this work will continue to have my support. But don't underestimate the enormity of what Betsy has taken on. She's holding onto lesbians with both hands and finding at least six more to reach out with.

It can feel sometimes, in the middle, that you're risking everything, because you believe we can have it all. I'm proud of Betsy and glad she's in there, and I offer a gracious invitation to all of us to believe that we're not being forgotten or any less cherished by a brand of guts and rebelliousness that's making a space for us on center stage.

Jenny Dilworth
Somerville, MA

Gay Community News

cover photo by Nancy Wechsler

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Postmaster: Send address changes to: *Gay Community News*, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111.

AIDS Resource List

AIDS Action Committee — 16 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115, 267-7573

Education and support group for people with AIDS, their families, lovers, friends and health care providers. Provides speakers, conducts forums, rap groups, hospice-trained volunteers, hotline information and referrals. Associated with the Fenway Community Health Center.

AIDS Action Line — 536-7733

AIDS Action Committee service, information, referrals and befriending about AIDS. Trained volunteers.

AIDS Benefit Review Committee (267-7573) or (725-4849)

Joint subcommittee of Mayor's Committee on AIDS and AIDS Action Committee to coordinate AIDS fundraisers, monitor process and review results. All groups of individuals planning AIDS fundraisers are encouraged to coordinate their efforts with the subcommittee.

AIDS Hotline — (424-5916)

The Community Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program of the City of Boston. Staff of public health nurses answer questions about AIDS, make referrals. Col-

lects city-wide data from hospitals on AIDS cases, forwards data to Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, officially determines number of cases probable and under investigation.

Fenway Community Health Center 16 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115 (267-7573)

Hotline information, medical work-ups, diagnosis, referrals, counseling. A gay sensitive health care facility. Participates in research efforts.

Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services 80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116 (542-5118)

One-on-one counseling for AIDS anxiety. **Gay and Lesbian Hotline — 6:00 pm to midnight, M-F (426-9371)**

Provides information on AIDS, makes referrals. Associated with Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services.

Haitian Committee on AIDS in Massachusetts — 117 Harvard Street, Dorchester, MA 02124 (436-2808)

Provides information, referrals, support and emergency assistance to Haitians with AIDS and their families.

Mayor's Committee on AIDS — Room 608, Boston City Hall, Boston, MA 02201 (725-4849)

Coordinates efforts of federal, state, and city health agencies, produces educational material, collects data on cases, reviews policy. Umbrella organization. Media outlet. Conducts forums and provides speakers, distributes AIDS brochures, referrals.

National Gay Task Force Hotline (1-800-221-7044)

Toll free national hotline run by NGTF to provide information and referrals.

Omega Hospice and Bereavement Program 270 Washington Street, Somerville, MA 02143 (776-6369)

Ongoing free support group for gay men and lesbians dealing with life-threatening illness.

Springfield Downtown Ministry /Council of Churches — 293 Bridge Street Room 205, Springfield, MA 01103-1402 (737-4125)

Counseling and referrals.

Speaking Out

Closet Military: Taking Our Deaths for Granted

By Neal O'Brien

There was an interesting incident last summer, in which one of the first women ever to graduate from West Point had her chosen career ended abruptly when, in the course of an Army internal investigation concerning drug traffic, it was alleged that this new officer was Gay. She is actually heterosexual and plans to sue the Army, but the reasoning which the Army used in cashiering her points out clearly that the privileges and obligations of citizenship are imbalanced for this country's Gay citizens; in part that's to our advantage. The needs of the armed forces are a case in point.

As is the case everywhere else in society, so is it the case with the armed forces: things have been a lot worse but they still could be a lot better. With an ever-present threat of a shortage of manpower it's only common sense for the Army to retain volunteers who have faced an isolated charge of homosexuality; but a second charge is grounds for dismissal, as if it's okay to be 'Gay for a Day' as long as you're not Gay. If that leaves you perplexed, don't worry, it should. But the situation hasn't changed in outline. If you're openly, assertively Gay you can't get in or stay in. Since wearing a brass hat is not a known cure for homophobia there are at least a few generals who must think that it's utterly immoral for homosexuals to serve in the armed forces in any capacity. I wonder what they'd make of the fact that I give that sentiment a hearty three cheers.

Unlike them, however, I would analyse the possibility of purely *military* objections to Gays in the ranks, rather than couch social and cultural objections in military terms. If you proceed from sexism to heterosexism two possible objections arise. First, the presence of openly Gay men in the ranks would compromise good order and military discipline (in other words those wild, undisciplined, faggot clowns would always be trying to seduce our Boy Scouts). Second, Gay men lack the aggressive spirit necessary for an effective combat soldier (in other words how can you put those fairies on the firing line?). The first objection is half true. There's nothing like a little queer-bashing to relieve the boredom of barracks life in peace-time, and an organization whose members are always browling is plainly not at peak efficiency. But just as there are no atheists in a fox-hole there are no seductions in one either. It's an unsavoury character indeed who can become sexually aroused while crouched in a muddy hole with artillery shells exploding over his head. If there's any evidence of kinship between Gays and Straights (and there isn't much) it's this: we all bleed the same colour. Shall I deign to recognize the second objection? Military rifles are wonderfully light, compared to what Grandpa used to carry, and even the limpest writs can pull a three-pound trigger.

Clearly there's no military reason that able-bodied Gay men of arms-bearing age could not serve in the ranks, and for reasons best known to themselves many Gay men and women do, which is appalling. We have practically no reason to take up arms to defend United States territory itself, far less to participate in a foreign war, let alone register for a draft which doesn't exist or volunteer to serve in the armed forces which defend a nation which is noticeably cool to Gay rights, and which prop up a number of regimes worldwide which are even cooler.

In principle Gay people do have a role to play in the armed forces in proportion to our numbers in the general population, but *as Gay citizens*, not as presumably Straight citizens, in the closet. And the difference is a real one, because if the government accepts the conscription or voluntary enlistment of Gay people in the closet, while at the same time processing Gay rights legislation at a glacial pace, then it's taking our deaths for granted but not our lives. We have demanded specific legislative guarantees of due process on the local, state, and federal level, justifiably. Rhetorically, this effort could be put: 'Are Gay people full citizens of the United States?' The result so far has been spotty and unimpressive. Rhetorically, the result may be put: 'No, Gay people are not full citizens of the United States.' Add to this the fact that Gay men would be drafted in the event of a serious national emergency and the sum of the parts is that we're not good enough to live in this country but

we're good enough to die for it. For Gay people of either sex to serve in the military establishment on these terms is not only irrational, it's obscene.

Of course you don't *have* to be a full citizen to serve in the ranks: certainly the Soviet General Staff doesn't entertain the thought. The ideal of free men defending free soil then gets scrapped, and the faggots that don't like it go to jail, right? Not in practice — if, in the event of an emergency all Gay men of the pertinent age refused to be drafted because they could see, rightly, that they were being asked to sacrifice much in exchange for little (in contradistinction to the Straight fellow-draftees), the result would be critical, as the roundest of figures demonstrate. The national population is about 225,000,000. The arms-bearing portion (about 10% in any country) is therefore about 22,500,000 at full mobilization. The Gay portion of that figure (10%) is 2,250,000 which is a lot of manpower to waste for the sake of remaining faithful to Judeo-Christianity. Nor is that all. The equivalent figure for the thirteen NATO contingents combined is about 2,950,000, to which France could add perhaps 500,000 more, raising the figure to 3,450,000. With the United States total we get a not insignificant final tally of 5,700,000, or 380 divisions of 15,000 each (of which 150 are American). Of the 164 countries on Earth (counts vary) not more than twelve could field an army of that size. Britain, France, and Italy could not do it without taking men outside the usual age limits. Our strength is not just spiritual, it's numerical as well, and it only remains for us to exploit it.

Just as the best way to ward off an assailant is to turn his weight to your advantage, so the best way to beat the system is to use the system against itself. When supplication doesn't have the desired effect a little arm twisting is in order. Rather than fighting for humanity in general, or for Gay humanity in particular, it is better to pledge *not* to fight against any one at all, *unless* we get assurances that we have liberties to defend after all, the assurance in the form of a Gay Equal Rights Amendment to the federal constitution: 'Equality of rights and due process under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of affectional or sexual preference.' Adding one sentence to a 200-year old document seems like an easy enough step, when the penalty for refusing to do so could mean that in the unforeseeable future, when the country needs them most, two and a quarter million men would vanish before the first troopship sails, and just possibly the only thing that 10% of the holding forces in Europe is holding is each other.

If you're Gay, eighteen, and about to register for 'the draft,' just remember that registration is a vote-making machine for politicians, which has no military value; Uncle Sam already knows where his eighteen-year-olds are if he needs them. Further, for many reasons, registering is one thing (10 minutes of dumb-ass paperwork), and ever serving is another proposition entirely so don't make it seem more important than it really is. However, if your conscience will finally decide for you whether or not you'll register, consider this: individuals notwithstanding, does 'Middle America' grieve especially for the young *Gay* men who were hurt or killed in Indochina, or perhaps might be someday in Central America? Consider that and then decide.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111

Community Voices as a person

Dear GCN,

The attached is a copy of a letter I sent to President Reagan. I hope you will publish it so people will know what it is like to suffer through AIDS as a person and not a statistic.

Thank you.

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to you as a fellow American and a fellow human being. This letter is my explanation to you of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Vigil, which was held on Capitol Hill on October 8, 1983.

As a man who has been suffering from Kaposi Sarcoma (KS) for the past 21 months, the AIDS Vigil had a special meaning for me. In these last 21 months I have undergone various treatments, including Chemotherapy and Interferon, neither of which had any success. I am now waiting for a new treatment, which will not be available for an indeterminate amount of time because federal money is not available to do research.

Thousands of people participated in the Candlelight Vigil on Capitol Hill. The purpose of this vigil was to focus national attention and public awareness on AIDS. The Vigil was a single action highlighting discrimination against people with AIDS, to support local and national AIDS and KS organizations and to demand a major increase in federal funding for research on this deadly disease. The Vigil provided an opportunity for deserving groups and individuals to express our anger and concern on a national scale. It was comprised of government, medical, educational, business people, AIDS patients and other concerned citizens unaccustomed to mass demonstration. It was a way of showing people with AIDS that we do care about their lives, that we support their struggle to overcome discrimination directed at them in health care, housing and jobs. And to tell the federal government and the Reagan Administration that we are demanding the necessary funding to conduct research on AIDS. AIDS has already afflicted 2,339 people as of August, 1983. As of last week my 18th friend was laid to rest. Finally, the Candlelight Vigil was a memorial to those 946 men, women and children who have lost their lives to AIDS.

Although state, local and community organizations are providing patient support, AIDS screening and other needed services, much more needs

to be done immediately. Future federal funding must be included in the 1984 budget, currently under preparation in the House and Senate. The creation of an independent federally funded advisory committee, to oversee research and funding, to press for a comprehensive patient bill of rights and a federal statement on a patient's right to confidentiality is needed now. Only by coordinating and intensifying an educational campaign and by demonstrating to Congress and to you, the President, the deep concern and the need we have for funding can we hope to marshal our national resources to find a cure for AIDS.

According to Dr. James Curran of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, AIDS is a relentless epidemic and the most important public health problem in the United States. In the recently publicized AIDS Hearing, held by a subcommittee in Washington, the results demonstrate how clearly the CDC and the National Institute for Health are inadequate in facing this crisis. While scientists have important research proposals to submit, none of them can be started due to the lack of federal funding.

I ask you to open your ears so your heart may hear our appeal for more federal funding. I hope you and other members of the government will finally start to help our cause. The United States supposedly prides itself as an advocate of human rights. I and others believe it is time the government started to practice this belief.

In a recently published article in *The New England Journal of Medicine* it stated, "The decision to withhold direct mouth-to-mouth resuscitation from a patient with AIDS when a CPR device is not available is solely that of the individual employee." I was always under the impression that you always saved the patient's life if you can, no matter what the illness. This is definitely a first in medical history and it's a very dangerous precedent to set.

Senator Jesse Helms who has been quoted as saying, "Let 'em die", and Jerry Farwell has labeled this epidemic as a "gay disease." I am tired of these types of people and other religious fanatics thinking they have a monopoly on love and religion. I believe in God as a central spiritual source, however, I don't believe He punishes people who show caring, love and understanding for their fellow man. If these people think they are preaching love and understanding, then they

should step back and take a close look at themselves, for all they are preaching is bigotry and hate.

In coordination with the Candlelight Vigil held in Washington, we had a rally here in San Francisco. The theme was "Cut the Red Tape, People are Dying". The new cases of AIDS are doubling every six months and it is quite apparent that the federal government is deliberately side-stepping this issue with red tape. The fatality rate for AIDS is 85% two years after diagnosis. How much longer can we wait? Speakers who addressed the crowd were people who are feeling the effects of AIDS. They included a mother of a person who has died from AIDS, a lover of an AIDS patient, concerned members of the community and AIDS patients themselves. They told what it is like to watch and wait as this disease takes its toll while the federal government plays politics.

In San Francisco's budget, Mayor Feinstein has approved several million dollars for various AIDS projects which include 1) the Shanti Project which provides support to patients suffering life threatening illnesses, and 2) housing for AIDS patients who have lost their homes and/or jobs because of discrimination purely due to their having AIDS.

In the state government Speaker of the House Willie Brown and State Representative Art Agnos have obtained \$2 million in state funds for AIDS research, which will be used to conduct research at the University of California Medical Center. Also, many other medical facilities in the nation are attempting to find the cause and cure for AIDS. It is clear that despite great efforts by all these people and organizations the cure for AIDS will not be found without greatly increased funding by the federal government.

As a citizen of the United States and a person who has been dealing with AIDS for 21 months, I'm asking you, Mr. President, and all the people in the United States to help us to find the love, strength and caring we need to continue the fight and find the cure for AIDS.

I am proud to be a gay man and I am proud of the gay community, as well as government officials and caring Americans who have helped and supported me during this period. The courage and strength of the AIDS patients, their families, and the gay community is so very strong and so very deep that it will never die. We are a proud

minority which has been here since the beginning of civilization and we will always be here. We are united because we are proud to be gay.

Respectfully,
Ronald D. Carey,
San Francisco, CA

chorus

Dear Folks,

It's way too late now, of course, but it's important to let you know how disappointed, if not angry, I feel that you failed to review the gay choral festival Come Out and Sing Together (COAST) that took place the second week of September in New York City. This was a major gathering of singers, both men and women, from all over the country. There were over 700 of us, who came at great personal expense and sacrifice. Many of the participating choruses had sponsored fundraising events for up to two years in advance to get to New York. Major composers, Libby Larsen and Ned Rorem, were engaged to write specially commissioned pieces for presentation in the most prestigious concert hall of the nation—Avery Fisher Hall—while Alice Tully Hall, also at Lincoln Center, was booked for three consecutive evenings with gay music. All GCN did was publish an advance paragraph about the festival, but no afterthoughts, reviews, summing up or any kind of attention at all. It's as if a lonely shepherd had sung a plaintive song into the night and the darkness swallowed it up unheard by any other listening ear. For shame! A terrible disservice to the gay community!

Sincerely,
Eric Gordon
New York, NY

David Morris replies: We were in fact promised a review of the festival and were looking forward to publishing it. But due to unforeseen circumstances, the volunteer writer who had made the promise was unable to write the article. We too were disappointed but have learned to accept the fact that volunteer writers with other full-time occupations cannot always fulfill their commitments.

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News Commentary

Mississippi Queerbaiters

By Sue Hyde

Whether or not one cares a stitch about the two-party electoral process, it frequently makes for an entertaining spectator sport. Like football, the drama of the running game, the intricacies of the aerial attack and the hemming and hawing up and down the field may provide hours of enjoyment and yet a final score can be meaningless.

In our version of participatory democracy, there exists in the electorate a tendency to focus on irrelevant details about candidates' personalities, lives, wives and past histories. Perhaps voters are too busy, too lazy or just plain too bored with the whole process to cast or not cast votes which reflect a candidate's merit. All too often in this video-drenched country, a well-timed rumor detailing the unverifiable but somehow morally sinister behavior of an opponent captures the abbreviated attentions of the busy, lazy or bored electorate and a candidate's fate is sealed. An electorate willing to vote its prejudices is susceptible to the most sleazy of campaign tricks.

It sometimes happens, though, that the mud slung at an opponent hits a fan and the slinger ends up with more than a dirty face. So it was in the state

of Mississippi this fall.

Backers of the Republican gubernatorial candidate, Leon Bramlett, accused Democrat Bill Allain of enjoying sex-for-hire with black transvestites. Just two weeks before the state election on Nov. 8 and with Bramlett trailing Allain by 30 percentage points in polls, Bramlett's supporters relentlessly queerbaited Allain, saying they had sworn statements from two hustlers claiming Allain had paid them for sex. And two others said Allain frequented a black gay neighborhood in Jackson, Miss.

The charges were the result of a month-long investigation costing Bramlett backer \$10,000 and headed up by a private detective agency. During the inquiry, Bramlett's backers provided each witness with a hotel room, \$12 a day for meals and \$50 a day for "lost income." The witnesses' stories were bolstered by lie detector tests and the whole mess had followed a rumor campaign the gist of which was Allain was queer, not just queer, but he did it with black drag queen whores, fergawdsakes.

The state went a bit bananas. Allain denied the whole thing, of course. The Bramlett people

wanted Allain to take a lie detector test. Allain threatened to sue. The Mississippi Highway Patrol undertook its own investigation of the charges. The campaign was in turmoil. Bramlett said he had nothing to do with it. Allain's ex-wife appeared in commercials to assure voters that her Bill was a "healthy, normal..." and so on, *ad nauseum*.

On Tuesday, Nov. 8, Mississippi voters, apparently unimpressed with the brouhaha, elected Allain governor by a healthy landslide margin. Allain had used his former office of Attorney General to fight telephone and utility rate increases, to unrig games at the state fair, to tangle with state legislators barring them from serving on boards and commissions compromising themselves as elected representatives, and lastly, to win refunds for power company customers. No fools, those Mississippi voters, they returned Allain's favors and elected him governor, queerbaiting and niggerloving-baiting aside.

This seemingly straightforward response from a state famous for convoluted political intrigue was a pleasant surprise.

Continued on page 15

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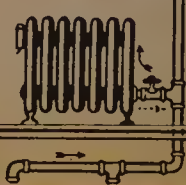
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The Demise of *Win*, A Remarkable Journal

By John Kyper

This autumn has been a time of death. No sooner had the uproar over the downing of Korean Airlines flight 007 finally subsided, when we witness the carnage wrought upon a U.S. "peacekeeping" force whose very presence in Lebanon is further inflaming the situation, than Reagan invades Grenada to oust "a brutal group

of leftist thugs" whom he has yet to show were worse than the rightist thugs he has been sending into Nicaragua. I begin to wonder if we'll live long enough to view *The Day After*, a film dramatizing what life would be like after a nuclear bomb, when it reaches our screens in late November.

Thus it is a little depressing to note the demise of *Win* magazine,

a publication closely connected with the War Resisters League throughout its 17-year existence. Once called "the liveliest magazine on the Left," *Win* was born in the mid-1960s during the rise of the movement against the Vietnam War as an alternative to the customary dryness of most pacifist journals. It was one of the last survivors of the "underground press"

of that era, an eclectic and all-too-often flaky potpourri of journalism that arose to challenge not only an unpopular war, but also the social and sexual hypocrisy

the mass media had at first portrayed the anti-war movement as shrill and unreasoning, a judgement seemingly confirmed for me when I beheld the doctrinaire

Memoirs of an Ancient Activist

The following is reprinted from the November 15, 1969 issue of *Win*:

By Paul Goodman

In essential ways, homosexual needs have made me a nigger. I have of course been subject to arbitrary insult and brutality from citizens and the police. But except for being occasionally knocked down, I have gotten off lightly in this department, since I have a good flair for incipient trouble and I used to be nimble on my feet. What is much more niggerizing is being debased and abashed when it is not taken for granted that my out-going impulse is my right; so I often, and maybe habitually, have the feeling that it is not my street. I don't mean that my passes are not accepted, nobody has a right to that; but that I'm not put down for making them. It is painful to be frustrated, yet there is a way of rejecting someone that accords him his right to exist and is the next best thing to accepting him; but I have rarely enjoyed this treatment.

Allen Ginsberg and I once pointed out to Stokely Carmichael, how we were niggers but

he blandly put us down by saying that we could always conceal our dispositions and pass. That is, he accorded to us the same lack of imagination that one accords to

my homosexual niggers...

have made me a nigger....



niggers; we did not really exist for him. Interestingly, this dialogue was taking place on national TV, that haven of secrecy.

In general, in America, being a queer nigger is economically and professionally less disadvantageous than being a black nigger, except for a few areas like government service, where there is considerable fear and furtiveness. (In

more puritanic regimes, like present-day Cuba, being queer is professionally and civilly a bad deal.) But my own experience has been very mixed. I have been fired three times because of my queer behavior or my claim to the right to it — and these are the only times I have been fired. I was fired from the University of Chicago during the early years of Hutchins, from Manumit School (an offshoot of A.J. Muste's Brookwood Labor College), and from Black Mountain College. These were highly liberal and progressive institutions, and two of them were communitarian. Frankly, my experience of radical community is that it does not tolerate my freedom. Nevertheless, I am all for community because it is a human thing, only I seem doomed to be left out.

On the other hand, my homosexual acts and the overt claim to the right to commit them have never disadvantaged me much, so far as I know, in more square institutions. I have taught at half a dozen State Universities. I am continually invited, often as chief speaker, to conferences of

Continued on page 16

For *Win*, sexuality was all of a piece with other struggles: the same issue also contained articles about the United Farmworkers, dissident GIs at Fort Dix and the October Moratorium.

that lay behind it. Before there was much of a gay press, periodicals like *Win*, the Los Angeles *Free Press* and the Cambridge *Broadside/Free Press* helped us build our burgeoning network by printing articles by gay militants, many



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of them syndicated around the country.

For me, it was a long journey, but one whose purpose became clearer and clearer as I progressed:

stridency of the *National Guardian* each week in the University of Vermont library. When at last I turned against the war, it was not because of the movement but rather because of my own experience with the military mentality. (It can never be said that I didn't learn anything in college ROTC!)

Soon thereafter, I first became acquainted with *Win*, at a time when my new-found opposition was broadening into a critique of the system that was committing such a monstrosity in Vietnam. I gradually became more and more familiar with the magazine and was finally motivated to subscribe after it published its infamous "gay issue" in 1969 in the wake of Stonewall, just as I was coming out. It was a daring and pioneering issue that shocked many of its readers when it arrived, sans envelope, a quotation by the late Paul Goodman emblazoned on the cover: "My homosexual needs have made me a nigger...." I

Continued on page 8

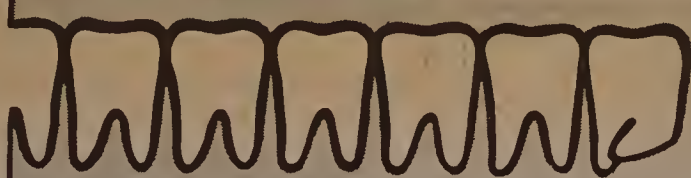
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Win

Continued from page 7
suspect, nevertheless, that it generated more subscriptions than cancellations.

For *Win*, sexuality was all of a piece with other struggles: the same issue also contained articles about the United Farmworkers, dissident GIs at Fort Dix and the October Moratorium. At a time when various factions of the Students for a Democratic Society

were clawing each others' eyes out like a bunch of medieval theologians disputing obscure dogma, it was refreshing to find a rag on the left that avoided rhetoric and spoke in plain English, just as it opposed the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia for the very same reasons that it opposed our war against Southeast Asia. It was a firm adversary of imperialism, of whatever form. Its

long-time editor Maris Cakars, who was from a Latvian family, had a bumpersticker on his car demanding the USSR's withdrawal from the Baltic States right beside more conventional peacenik slogans. He sometimes received flak for it — and when he wrote about being detained by Moscow police for passing out leaflets in Red Square, one member of the U.S. Communist Party wrote him a most abusive letter cancelling her subscription.

The strain of keeping the small, under-capitalized papers going, and (we learn many years later) a concerted FBI campaign against them, forced most of the underground press out of business after a few years. (Feminist outrage over sex and pornography ads in the Berkeley *Barb* eventually led to its splitting into two newspapers. The political portion soon folded, the sex part continues to publish.) *Win* was thus remarkable for its longevity, living to see a latter generation of the alternative press in publications like *GCN*, *Mother Jones* and *In These Times*.

In the end, a \$22,000 debt (most of it in back salaries or owed to movement printers) depleted staff ranks and forced *Win* to call it quits after skirting the edge of bankruptcy for nearly its entire existence. The chemistry that had started and sustained the magazine was just no longer there. And so, sporadic *Win* contributor that I've been, I made a special trip to New York to attend its farewell party during the Halloween weekend to help retire the debt and meet a lot of folks I haven't seen for years.

Some things need to end so that we can regroup and begin anew. I hope we shall soon see the creation of another activist bulletin board-cum-theoretical journal fulfilling the function served for so long by *Win*.

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Correction/Addendum

Due to a slip up in laying out the article on the Reproductive Rights National Network conference in last week's *GCN* (Vol. 10, No. 17) pictures of Vienna Carroll and Shawn Towey were interchanged. If you look at last week's center-spread, the left center photograph is of Vienna Carroll, the right center photograph is of Shawn Towey.

* * *

Left off the list of R2N2's present steering committee was Sharon Page, *GCN* writer and member of Chicago's Women Organized for Reproductive Choice. Sorry about that, Sharon, don't know how it could have happened.

* * *

Due to the time pressures of trying to get the article written, the author would like to acknowledge a slip up of her own. Inadvertently left out of the article was the mention of Saturday afternoon's session: Combating Racism. This session was organized by Joan Lester and Pat Romney and was a discussion of the institutional and personal aspects of racism, its effect on our daily lives and our work, and strategies for interrupting racism when we see it. The session helped contribute to the atmosphere which allowed a positive and meaningful discussion later that same day of racism within the network and in particular one incident that occurred at the conference. The author regrets having failed to mention this in the original article.

GayCommunity News

THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALES

The AIDS Action Committee

By Warren Blumenfeld

In an unpretentious old building on a small side street in Boston's Fenway area lies the headquarters of the AIDS Action Committee (AAC). Simply put, the purpose of the Committee is to provide education and support around the issue of AIDS. According to AAC Coordinator Larry Kessler, "We want to educate the community, support those people with AIDS and provide outreach for those who are concerned about it."

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is a relatively new and often fatal disorder of presently unknown origin which attacks the body's defenses against disease, leaving one vulnerable to illness. Currently there are approximately 2,600 cases of AIDS in the United States and over 1,100 of those stricken have died. Estimates from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta place the number of cases in Massachusetts at 45, with 21 known deaths.

Against the backdrop of this new epidemic, AAC developed. Its origins date back to November of last year when two discussion groups were held at Boston's Fenway Community Health Center on the topic of AIDS. Of the estimated 40 people in attendance, a core of 15 desired to organize an on-going AIDS committee. They drew up a proposal and last March presented it to the Health Center's Board of Directors. Today AAC is an ad hoc, or special, tax-exempt committee of the Health Center.

The Committee is broken down into ten working subgroups, each having its own function:

The AIDS Action Line: This telephone hot line provides the general public, social workers, hospital staffs and people with AIDS and their loved ones information about the syndrome. Presently the line's hours are 3:00PM to 9:00PM, Monday through Friday. Their phone number is

(617) 536-7733.

Media: This group works with the media and with other organizations to publicize AAC events while monitoring and updating media coverage of AIDS.

Hospice: Volunteers in this group serve as buddies and advocates to persons who have AIDS and to their loved ones. They provide friendship, support, help in daily routine and whatever else is needed.

Education: This is the Committee's speakers' bureau, which goes out to com-

Local Niches

munity groups to disseminate correct, up-to-date information regarding the medical, social and legal aspects of the syndrome.

Mental Health/Community Support: Therapy and support groups are organized for people with AIDS. Other groups are designed for those in the community who feel the need to discuss their fears and concerns about changing lifestyles in the face of the AIDS crisis.

Networking/Hospital Liaison: This group links together AAC services with those of area hospitals and acts as advocates for AIDS patients in these hospitals.

Archives: As its name suggests, this group will set up and maintain printed materials concerning the medical, social and legal developments of AIDS.

Advocacy: The purpose of this group is to work with federal, state and local agencies to push for funding of AIDS research and to work to eliminate the new types of discrimination members of the gay community are now facing based upon public

fears of AIDS.

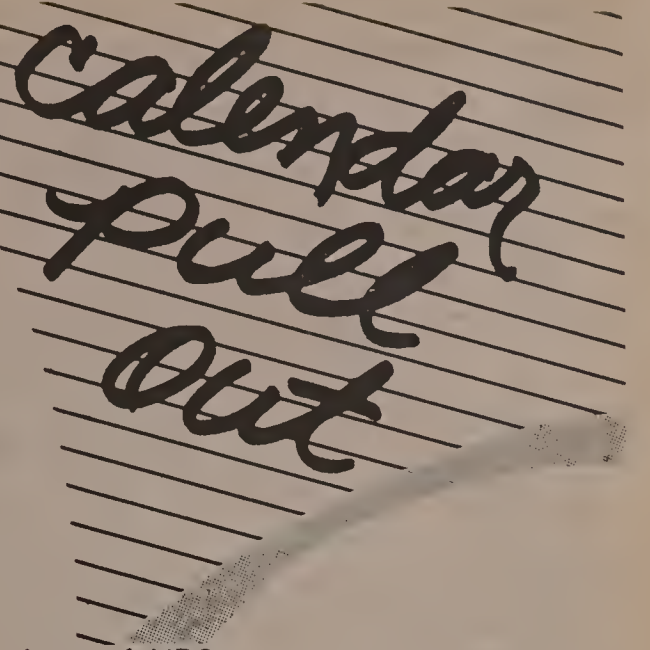
Personnel: Since most of AAC's work is done by volunteers, this group recruits, assigns and coordinates people to positions within the Committee where they have the greatest interest and experience.

Fund-Raising: AAC is supported through public and private donations and this group works to generate the funds needed to sustain its work.

AAC has been organized as an on-going group which intends to be in operation for as long as the AIDS crisis is with us. According to Kessler, "The illness is not something that is going away; it's going to be here for a long time." He said the medical community isn't even close to discovering what it is and estimates that it may take ten years for researchers to find out what causes the illness and possibly another ten to discover a cure.

Noting that "we are all at risk," Kessler said that the syndrome does not seem to follow any particular pattern when choosing its victims. "We are looking at the possibility of incredible numbers; it could be 20,000 by the end of 1985," he said. "This will not only put a strain on the medical system and those people who are sick, but it is also going to have all kinds of political implications on the gay community."

Kessler said that there are ways to lessen one's risk while living "sex positive and gay positive lives." If you have AIDS, have concerns or questions or would like to volunteer your services, you are invited to contact the Committee through its Action Line. Again, the number is (617) 536-7733.



BOSTON-AREA GAY/LESBIAN BUSINESS GUIDE

ACCOMMODATIONS

OASIS GUEST HOUSE
22 Edgerly Rd.,
Boston, MA 02115
(617)267-2262

WATERSHIP INN
P.O.Box 918
7 Winthrop St.
Provincetown, MA 02657
(617) 487-0094

BOOKSTORES

GLAD DAY
BOOKSTORE
43 Winter St.
Boston, MA 02108
(617)542-0144

CHIROPRACTORS

DR. EDWARD COHEN
Brookline Family
Chiropractic Office
1330 Beacon St.
Brookline, MA 02146
(617) 734-7744

DR. JONATHAN D.
STEIN
375 Harvard St.
Brookline, MA 02146
(617)232-7200

CINEMA

ART CINEMA
204 Tremont St.,
Boston, MA 02111
(617)482-4661

NORTH STATION
CINEMA 2
175 Portland St.
Boston, MA, 02114
(617)227-0513

MEDICAL/COUNSELING

TAPESTRY, Inc.
20 Sacramento St.,
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617)661-0248

FENWAY COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTER
16 Haviland St.,
Boston, MA 02115
(617)267-7573

FRANCIS GIAMBRONE,
MA, COUNSELING
110 Orchard St.
Somerville, MA 02144
(617) 628-6988

PLACE/HOTLINE AND
COUNSELING
32 Rutland St.
Boston, MA
(617) 267-9150

GAY AND LESBIAN
COUNSELING SERVICE
80 Boylston St.#855,
Boston, MA 02116

GENDER IDENTITY
SERVICE OF
NEW ENGLAND
136 Causeway St.
Hudson, MA 01749
(617) 568-0680

JACK CEMPELLIN, M.S.
ASSOCIATED
COUNSELORS
Salem & Copley Square
(617) 745-7029

NORTH SHORE CMHC
COUNSELING
47 Congress St.
Salem, MA 01970
(617) 744-5322

SOUTHERN
JAMAICA PLAIN
HEALTH CENTER
687 Centre St.
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
(617) 522-5900

ALLAN SINGER, LICSW
PSYCHOTHERAPIST
Copley Square
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 266-2240

COUNSELING
ASSOCIATES
23 East Main St.
Westboro, MA 01581
(617) 366-8576

MASS. BAY
COUNSELING ASSOC.
25 Huntington Ave. #331
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 353-0225

ARADIA COUNSELING
FOR WOMEN
520 Commonwealth Ave.
Kenmore Square
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 247-4861

DENTISTRY

DR.RICHARD BANKHEAD
DR. PAUL GROIPEN
1259 Hyde Park Ave.
Hyde Park, MA 02136
(617) 364-5500

JOHN C. BARNA,
D.M.D.
739 Boylston St.
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 353-1500

ACUPUNCTURE

SEAN VARNUM
Suite 401
678 Mass Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 576-2114
(617) 321-8818

INSURANCE

DAVID L. COLLINS, CLU
Boston
Cape Cod
1-800-352-3185

LANDSCAPE DESIGN

THE BEST LANDSCAPE
DESIGN CO.
53 Hawthorne St.
Somerville, MA 02144
(617) 776-6377

REMODELING

T.H.E. CONTRACTORS,
INC.
36 Pine St.
Chelsea, MA 02150
(617) 889-4347

HOME REPAIRS

GEORGE W. CASPER
47 Waldeck St.
Dorchester, MA 02124
(617) 288-3228

REAL ESTATE

MARK THOMAS CO,
LTD
Mark Zimmerman
Charles St.
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 227-2209

RACHAEL REALTY CO.
INC.
318 Harvard St. #31
The Arcade Building
Brookline, MA 02146
277-0230

TRAVEL

FOREX TRAVEL
76 Arlington St.
Boston Park Plaza
482-2900

LIMOUSINE SERVICES

WAITES ROLLS ROYCE
LIMOUSINE SERVICE
Christopher Waites
(617) 567-0420
(305) 564-1292

INFORMATION/MEDIA

XANADU GRAPHICS
143 Albany St.,
Cambridge, MA 02139
661-6975

WOMEN

NEW WORDS
BOOKSTORE
186 Hampshire St.,
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617)876-5310

WOMENCRAFTS, INC.,
P.O. Box 190,
373 Commercial St.,
Provincetown, MA 02657

WOMEN'S BARS

THE MARQUEE
512 Mass Ave
Cambridge, MA 02139
492-9545

SOMEWHERE/ELSE
295 Franklin St.
Boston 423-7730

PODIATRY

A HOUSECALL
Jeanne M. Arnold, DPM
William A. Sandberg,
DPM
(617) 396-7527

GYMS

SOUTH END GYM
46 Waltham St.
South End, Boston, MA
(617)451-3514

NEW ENGLAND
WOMEN'S GYM
1261 Cambridge St.
Inman Sq.,
Cambridge, MA
497-9776

This guide provides a listing of gay/lesbian owned, staffed, or supportive businesses and services. To have your business or service listed (for only \$100.00 per year) call 426-4469.

Notes

Compiled by Michael Bronski and Jeremy Grainger.



In Flames

Angry Arts "films about people in struggle" series continues this weekend with the Boston premiere of *Born in Flames*, winner of the 1983 International Women's Film Festival.

Born in Flames is a futuristic, provocative drama about the U.S. ten years after a peaceful socialist revolution. Third World lesbian feminists band together, first as urban guardians, then as urban guerillas, to oppose the still prevailing racism, sexism and oppression of "tomorrow's government." The film, directed by Lizzie Borden, was four years in the making and features an appearance by feminist commentator Flo Kennedy. Running time is 87 minutes.

Angry Arts films screen at the Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St. in Central Square, just off Mass. Ave. Showtime is 7:30PM on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$2.50.

Issues

The Exodus Center will present its fourth annual conference on **Issues in Gay Life** on Saturday, November 19 at Andover Hall in Cambridge.

The Conference, which runs from 10AM until 5PM will feature workshops on such topics as **Lesbian and Gay Political Clout**, **Children of Alcoholics**, **Choose Life: Sex and the Loving in the Age of AIDS**, **Lesbian Sexuality**, **Lesbian Battering**, **Communication in Intimate Relationships**, **Working in Groups Effectively**, and **A Positive Response to the Moral Majority: Biblical Theology and Gays**.

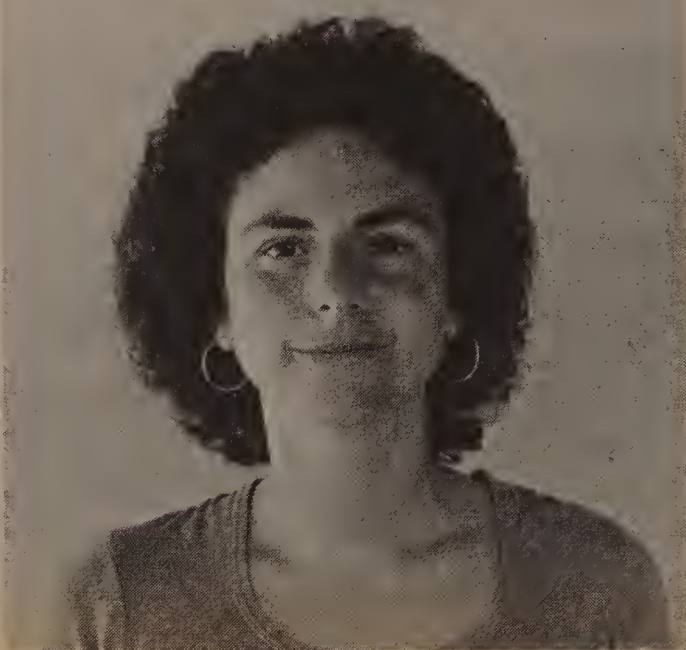
To register or for more information, call the Exodus Center at (617) 266-0612.

I Never Told Anyone

Ellen Bass, feminist poet and counselor, will bring her workshop for women survivors of child sexual abuse to the Boston area Saturday and Sunday December 3 and 4.

For several years Bass has led women's writing workshops in California. Because stories of child sexual abuse kept emerging in the relative safety of these groups, Ellen saw the great need for a place for survivors to meet and to share their stories. This year she began conducting workshops designed specifically for survivors on the west coast. When Pam Mitchell, a survivor and one-time student of Ellen's heard about the California workshops, she invited Ellen to come to Boston to conduct one here.

There will be an opportunity to meet Ellen on Wednesday, November 30 at 7:30PM at New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St., Cambridge. She will be reading new poems and selections from *I Never Told Anyone: Writings by Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse*, an



Gene Bagnato

anthology she and five other Santa Cruz women compiled which has just been published by Harper & Row. Willen will be joined by co-editor Jude Brister. A \$1 to \$4 donation is requested.

The workshop will meet from 10AM-6PM, both Saturday and Sunday and will be limited to 15 women. There is a sliding fee scale. No writing experience is necessary. For more information call Pam at (617) 576-2368.

Robert Ferro at Glad Day

Robert Ferro, author of the recently released novel *The Family of Max Desir* (Dutton), will read from and sign his book at Glad Day Bookshop, Boston's lesbian and gay bookstore, on Saturday, November 19 at 7:30PM.

The Family of Max Desir is a moving portrait of a second-generation Italian-American family and the grief which binds it together during the



mother's long illness. This tragedy intensifies conflict between the Old World father and his gay son, Max, who struggles along with his lover, Nick, against his father's intolerance.

Ferro's book has already been well-received. Edmund White has called it "an honest, eloquent and entirely original novel. . . .At once realistic and mythological, intensely personal and public, understated in its expression but richly wrought in its conception. *The Family of Max Desir* is a triumph."

Glad Day Bookshop is located at 43 Winter St., second floor, just across from the Park St. "T" off Tremont. Refreshments will be served and there's a \$2 donation at the door.

Quick Gay Guide

Boston Area (617) INFORMATION/SERVICE/SOCIAL

LESBIAN AND GAY HOTLINE (6pm-Mid.) Mon-Fri 426-9371
BAGALS (Boston Area Lesbian and Gay Schoolworkers) P.O. Box 178, Astor St., Boston, 02123
Black Men White Men Social/Support Group c/o GCN, Box 1, 167 Tremont St. Boston 02111
Black Men's Assoc., PO Box 827, Boston 02123
BAGLY (Boston Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth, GCN Box 10GY, 167 Tremont, Boston 02111 497-8282
Boston Asian Gay Men & Lesbians c/o Glad Day Bookshop, 43 Winter St. Boston, 02108 542-0144
Boston Gay Men's Chorus 522-6983
Boston Institute for Gay Studies Box 2750, Boston 02208 482-0897
Boston Lesbian & Gay History Project c/o Interrante, 24 Greenwich Pk #1, Boston 02118
Cauldron Exp. Theater, 22 Randolph St. 542-8575
Chiltern Mountain Club 275-1336
Box 104, 104 Charles St., Boston 02114
El Comite Latino de lesbianas y homosexuals de Boston P.O. Box 365, Cambridge, 02139 783-5250 or 354-1755
Fathers in Transition (Gay/Bi), (Ex.Ctr.)266-0621
c/o GCN, Box 6, 167 Tremont St., Boston 02111
Gay and Lesbian Physicians of New England (617) 482-6874 or 247-5485
Gay Professional Men's Group 944 4818
Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau, P.O. Box 2232, Boston 02107 354-0133
Lesbian and Gay Assoc. Engineers and Scientists (LGAES/Boston) 288 3228
P.O. Box 1417, Boston 02117 423-0942
Lesbian and Gay Folkdancing c/o GCN Box 5, 167 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111
Lesbian & Gay History Project 424-1993
Lesbian and Gay Hotline (6-12pm) Mon-Fri 426-9371
Merrymount Music Soc., Box 401, 104 Charles St. Boston 02114 236-4888
Outreach Institute, Box 368, Kenmore St., 02215 277-3454
Boston Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays P.O. Box 125-S 101, Arlington, MA, 02174 442-2632
Project Place, 32 Rutland St. 02118 267 9150
Transsexual Hotline 568 0680
Triangle Theater, Box 127,104 Charles St., Boston 02114
Urania (Lesbian and bisexual women's S/M Group) Box 23, 89 Mass Ave, Boston 02115 623-7258
Watchline (Fri-Mon 7-10pm) 262-5250

POLITICAL/LEGAL

Boston Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance, Box 65, Boston, 02117 247-3910
B U Gay and Lesbian Legal Association B.U. Law School, 755 Comm. Ave. Cambridge Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance PO Box 1273, Cambridge 02238
Civil Liberties Union of Mass. 482-3170
47 Winter St., 02108

GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders) 100 Boylston Suite 900 Boston, 02116 426-1350
Harvard Committee on Gay and Lesbian Legal Issues Roscoe Pound Hall, Cambridge, 02138
Lesbian/Gay Prisoner Project c/o GCN, 167 Tremont, Boston 02111
Mass Gay Political Caucus 262-1565
Box 179, 118 Mass. Ave. Boston 02115
National Lawyers Guild, 14 Beacon St., Boston 02108 227-7335

STUDENT

Boston Intercollegiate Gay and Lesbian Alliance c/o GAMIT, Rm 50-306, Cambridge 02139
Northeastern U. Lambda, 260 Eli Ctr., 360 Huntington Ave., Boston 02115 437-2738
GAMIT (Gays at MIT), MIT 50-306 Walker, Cambridge 02139 253-5440
Harvard-Radcliffe Gay and Lesbian Student Assoc., Harvard 197 Memorial Hall, Cambridge 02138 495-5476
Harvard Lesbian and Gay Medical/Dental Students Group Box 250c, 107 Ave. Louis Pasteur, Boston 02115
Babson College, Gay and Lesbian Alliance Box A, Babson Park,Wellesley, 02157
Tufts U., Gay and Lesbian Community, c/o Student Activities Off., Medford 02155 628-2828
Boston College G and L Support Group, Haley House, Chestnut Hill 02167
Northeastern School of Law, Lesbian and Gay Caucus 400 Huntington Ave, Boston 02115
U/Mass/Boston, Lesbian and Gay Ctr., Rm 1-4 178, Dorchester 02125 929-8276
Brandeis U., Triskelion, Box 2275 Waltham 02254 647-4491 or 647-4899
Boston U., Gays and Lesbians,c/o Program Resources Off., Sherman Union, Boston 02215
Yale Gay and Lesbian Alumni/Boston, c/o GCN Box 7, 167 Tremont, Boston 02111
Wellesley Lesbians & Friends, Feminist Coop Oakwoods, Wellesley Coll. Wellesley MA 02151

WOMEN

Aradia Counseling for Women, 520 Comm Ave (Kenmore Sq.) 247-4861 x58
Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 354-8807
Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Cambridge 02138 661-3633
Dyke Doctors (Lesbian Physicians, Med Students Health Profs) 354-5910
Gay Professional Women's Assn., Box 339, Boston U Sta., Boston 02215
Lesbian Lawyers and Legal Workers 723-6327
Lesbian Liberation, c/o Women's Center 354-8807
Lesbian S/M Group 776-7957
National Organization for Women 99 Bishop Allen Dr., Cambridge 02139 661-6015
Somerville Women's Center, 1 Summer St., 02143 628-6311
Tufts Women's Center 628-5000 x3184
Women's Alcoholism Program, 1348 Cambridge St., Cambridge 02139 661-1316

RELIGIOUS

Am Tikva 782-8894
P.O. Box 11, Cambridge, 02138
Dignity, 355 Boylston St., Boston 02114 536-6518
Friends (Quaker) for Lesbian and Gay Concerns, 5 Longfellow Pk., Cambridge 227-9118
Integrity, P.O. Box 2582, Boston 02208 262-3057
Lutherans Concerned for Gay People 536-3788
Metropolitan Community Church Fr. Paul Shanley 523-7664
Unitarian Universalists Office of Lesbian/Gay Concerns 964-0996
25 Beacon St., Boston 02108 742-2100

MEDIA

Boston's Other Voice, WROR, 98.5FM Dennis 353-0225
Fag Rag 661-7534
Gay Community News 426 4469
Good Gay Poets 661-7534
Lesbian and Gay Media Advocates (LAGMA) c/o GCN, 167 Tremont, 02111 542-5679
Musically Speaking (WMBR 88.1FM. Sun. 1-3) Melanie 494-8810
Women's Educ. Media, 47 Cherry St. Somerville 02144 666-0350

MEDICAL/COUNSELING

AIDS Action Committee c/o Fenway Community Health Center 16 Haviland St. 02115
AIDS Hotline M-F 3-9pm Sat 10am-4pm 536-7733
Boston Free VD Info 1-800-272-2577
(8am-10pm, M-F)
Alcoholics Anonymous 426-9444
Exodus Ctr., 25 Huntington Ave. 02116 266-0612
Gay & Lesbian Counseling Service 542-5188
Gay AIAnon (families of alcoholics) North Shore Gay and Lesbian Counseling Program (non-profit) 744 5322
Tapestry Inc. 20 Sacramento St., Cambridge 02138 661-0248
Tufts Skin Care Clinic (VD treatment) 956 5293

Eastern Mass. (617)

INFORMATION/SERVICE/SOCIAL

Central Middlesex Social Club, Box 470, Maynard 01754 236-4882
Frenz & Luvvers, Box 623, Worcester 01601
Gay Hotline 756-0730
Mass. Teachers Assoc./Gay Rights Caucus P.O. Box 75, New Salem 01355
North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance Box 806, Marblehead, 01945 745-3848
Survival Crisis Line 471-7100
So. Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance Box 712, Bridgewater 02324 584-4997

Tri-County Assoc., c/o 219 East Main St, Milford 01757 473-3529

RELIGIOUS

Dignity Merrimack Valley, P.O. Box 321, Methuen 01844
MCC Worcester, 2 Wellington St., 753-8360

WOMEN

New Bedford Women's Clinic 996-3341
Origins, Inc., A Women's Center 169 Boston St., Salem 01970 745-5873
Womanitide (lesbian magazine),PO Box 963, P'town 02657 487-3393

STUDENT

Clark U. Gay Alliance, 950 Main, A-70
Gay Outreach Assoc. for Lowell (Univ.) Students South Campus, Student Union Rm 348 453-3804
Salem State Gay Task Force Salem St. College, Salem 01970 745-0556 (ext. 209)

Western Mass. (413)

INFORMATION/SERVICE/SOCIAL

Berkshire County Gay Coalition, P.O. Box 1562, Pittsfield 01201, 442-1819
Lesbian and Gay Men's Counseling Collective 406F Student Union, UMass, Amherst 545-2645
GALA (Gay And Lesbian Activists) Box 1084, Northampton 01061
Help Line 664-6391, 664-6392
Pioneer Valley People's Gay Alliance Box 181, Northampton, 01061 584 7903
Dignity/Springfield, P.O. Box 1604 Springfield 01101

WOMEN

Valley Wimmins Connection 586-6445
Common Woman Club, 78 Masonic St., Northampton 01060 584 4580
Everywomen's Center, Amherst Franklin Cty. Lesbian Alliance P.O. Box 235, Deerfield 01342 545 3438
Gay Women's Caucus, Amherst 499 2425
Lesbians United 33 Pearl St, Pittsfield, 01201
New Alexandria Lesbian Library Box 402, Florence, MA 01060 584 7616
Southwest Women's Center 545-0626
Valley Lesbian Alliance 665-4705, 253 3082, 774 5464

STUDENT

Hampshire College Gay Men's Alliance Box 89, Amherst 01002
Lesbian & Gay Men's Counseling Collective 406F UMass Student Union, Amherst 545 2645
Lesbian Union, 920 Campus Center, UMass, Amherst 01003 545 3438
People's Gay Alliance, 413 Student Union RSO 242
UMass Amherst 01003 545-0154
Williams Gay Peoples Union S U Box 3212, Williams College, Williamstown 01267

Women of the Theater

Token Gestures, Real Accomplishments

Crimes of the Heart by Beth Henley. Directed by Melvin Bernhardt. With Kathy Danzer, Cyd Quilling, Caryn West. At the Shubert.

Agnes of God by John Pielmeier. Directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg. With Elizabeth Ashley, Mercedes McCambridge, Maryann Plunkett.

Women in Theater. Edited with introduction and notes by Karen Malpede. Drama Book Publishers, 821 Broadway, NYC. 281 pp. 1983.

By Michael Bronski

For years people (actually, mainly women) have lamented the lack of women's involvement in professional theater. There were no good roles for actresses, few chances for women directors, less chance for women playwrights, and with the exception of costume design, almost no women in the technical aspects of production. And certainly the plays that did make it into production hardly reflected a feminist, or even a

because she had just had enough. Henley has dragged out all the conventions of small town drama: the noisy neighbor-relative, the old boyfriend, the eager, helpful incipient boyfriend. There are the usual small-town jokes and the usual filler of "cute" small-town chatter. But at the play's center are — or rather should be — the women and their relationships

the characters.

Critics are fond of saying that women writers are never very good at dealing with "important" or "universal" ideas, and are at their best when describing the "smaller world" of the home and family. Of course the best women writers have proved that as much can happen in a kitchen as in a conference room. But

able to conjure up real feeling in the audience. For all of its slickness, empty-headed theology and psycho-babble *Agnes of God* (and thanks to the three incredible performances) is able to stir us in ways that are becoming rarer and rarer in the theater.

Male playwrights have always used their women characters to suit their own ends; play in their own fantasies. Of course it's Pielmeier's show and his fantasy, but for all the hysterics it does not feel as though he is using his characters *against* women. While the play is about "religion vs. science" the sub-text is much more concerned with the relationships between women: women as sisters, as mothers, as children, and to a large degree as nurturers. Both the doctor and the Mother Superior want to help Agnes, each in her own way, each according to her own needs. Pielmeier is non-judgmental about the reasons and means of help; but he acknowledges the quest and need for both giving and obtaining it.

Jane Austen once wrote that she could never describe a scene of men talking among themselves: as a woman she would not know what they might say. And while this may generally be a good rule for writers, you never have the feeling here that the (male) playwright is doing an injustice or misusing the situation of women speaking among themselves. His dialogue is more real, has more emotional pitch, than anything in *Crimes of the Heart*. He knows his characters, has drawn them

The state of women in theater is still at such a dismal place that it is important to realize there is a history and a tradition of greatness binding the two together. Karen Malpede's *Women in Theater: Compassion and Hope* is an important anthology of writings on theater by women from the past 100 years. She includes such important — and hitherto hard to find — documents as Fanny Kemble's notes on Shakespeare, some lectures by Ellen Terry and Eva Le Gallienne, and radical criticism by Emma Goldman. We are so used to, in our age, women as actresses, it is important to remember their intellectual and professional contributions that are part of our theatrical history.

Theater, like any art and craft, has evolved according to social form and convention. To a large degree this has been controlled by male producers (for what gets done) and by male academics (for how it gets interpreted). It is not only important to re-find, but to re-read and understand the Shakespearean criticisms of Kemble and Terry, and the notes on Strindberg by Goldman, for they are not only history but a new way of looking at texts still played before audiences today. The pieces by Gertrude Stein and Lorraine Hansbury on their own writing are also illuminating. It is probably impossible to calculate Stein's influence upon modern literature — drama, prose, and poetry — but her essay here, on playwrighting, gives some account

Is this feminism or tokenism? A new variation of Dr. Johnson's dancing dog dragged out because for the moment a play "by and about women" is the best way to market something?

with one another.

The common complaint against Chekhov is that nothing ever happens in his plays. When his three sisters never do anything (and never get to Moscow) it's because they aren't supposed to; that's the point. Henley's sorority of three

Henley seems intent on proving that as little can happen around a kitchen table as anywhere else. By relying on gender and regional stereotypes she has managed to please the critical world and the audience, giving them pap when that is all that is asked for or, for that matter, tolerated. In fact, it is never exactly clear why the play is titled *Crimes of the Heart*. It should have been called *Good Little Girls*. After all, that's what Henley won the Pulitzer for being.

Agnes of God is written by a man but deals totally with the relation three women bear upon one another. Martha Livingston (Elizabeth Ashley) is a psychoanalyst who has to decide if Agnes (Maryann Plunkett), a young sheltered nun from a cloister, is able to stand trial for the murder of a newborn child found dead in her room. Agnes remembers nothing of the birth or death and her Mother Superior, Miriam Ruth (Mercedes McCambridge), believes her to be so innocent (of both the crime and of life) that she is, in some mysterious way, connected to God. At the core of *Agnes of God* playwright John Pielmeier is pitting the psychiatrist against the nun: science against religion; the possibility of explaining everything against the possibility of the unexplainable. It's an interesting fight, but after the plain floor boards are laid out he has little interest in anything other than building a stage for three actresses to chew up and then spit out the scenery upon.

If *Crimes of the Heart* is under and too loosely constructed, *Agnes of God* is built and runs like a water-proof and shock-proof watch. Pielmeier has anticipated our every reaction and has managed to manipulate our responses to the maximum. While it's true that *Agnes* is

Theater, like any art or craft, has evolved according to social form and convention. To a large degree this has been controlled by male producers (for what gets done) and by male academics (for how it gets interpreted).

succinctly, and has allowed them to speak to us honestly and plainly. *Agnes* did well on Broadway and although most critics have complained of its basic philosophical pretensions, audiences seem to wallow in its well-conceived and well-executed theatricality. Women characters have always been an emotional force in drama, while the men get to sit around and talk about — or symbolize — ideas. Though written by a man, and containing hardly any real solid ideas at all, *Agnes*, not unlike opera, allows emotions

of both her technical and emotional considerations. Besides Hansbury's reflections on her own writing there are two incisive, devastating critiques of Strindberg and Arthur Miller which are remarkable for their insights (especially for their times, the early '50s) into sexual and gender arrangements. (Readers interested in Hansbury should also check Jonathan Katz's *Gay American History* for her letters to *The Ladder*.)

Although the historical documents in Malpede's book are both interesting and important, her last sections contain 8 entries on both populist and feminist theater: suggestions, theory, notes, interviews, and essays. Simple and straight from the heart and mind, the writing is generally non-polemical, creative and most of all useful. After giving women and theater a history Malpede attempts to secure it a place in both the popular imagination and theatrical life of the present. When speaking of theater we all too often think only of mainline, Broadway productions. Although it is shameful that only six women playwrights have ever won Pulitzer Prizes (not that a Pulitzer means much, beyond recognition) there is a thriving feminist, political and ever-growing popular theater movement that is seeking support from, and giving joy to, a whole community who have fallen outside of the mainstream of theatrical traditions. All art and culture evolves and grows: *Women in Theater* is an important document and product of that growth.



Maryann Plunkett as Agnes (left) and Mercedes McCambridge as Mother Miriam in *Agnes of God*.

woman's sensibility. Of the almost 140 plays reprinted in the Best American Play series (published by Crown and spanning from 1930 through 1982) there are nine plays by seven women — and of those only three are in the past 20 years.

Two years ago there was a spate of articles proclaiming the new wave of women playwrights: Wendy Wasserstein, Marsha Norman, Caryl Churchill, and Beth Henley. Was this really a trend, or just a cultural press gimmick? Had feminism really made some inroads and allowed women more of a voice in professional theater?

Last year Beth Henley won the Pulitzer Prize for her play *Crimes of the Heart*. She was the sixth woman to receive the award — the last was Ketti Frings for her adaptation of Thomas Wolfe's *Look Homeward Angel*, 25 years ago. This put her in the forefront of the "new women playwrights" contingent. Playwrights, the mainstream media suggest, are bringing a new point of view to the theatrical scene. Is this feminism or tokenism? A new variation of Dr. Johnson's dancing dog dragged out because for the moment a play "by and about women" is the best way to market something?

Crimes of the Heart is a small comedy set in the very small town of Hazelhurst, Mississippi. Three sisters, all fairly eccentric, spend the play coming to grips with their individual problems: Lenny has a poor self-image and cannot believe that any man would love her; Meg, in town from the West Coast, has given up on a singing career because she has lost faith in herself; Babe has just shot her husband, a prominent politician,

don't do much more but the playwright seems to think that they do and presumes that we should be interested in all of the nuance of their lives and feelings. *Crimes of the Heart* does not adhere to a classical or strict form of construction, it rambles and meanders along rather like life. But unlike life it is rarely interesting. Henley's sense of character development is basically that of TV soaps. We are told one or two quirky facts about someone and that is all we need to know. Her sense of plotting is even more primitive. If you don't really have fully delineated characters there is no need to have a carefully developed plot. It's alright if nothing happens because the characters don't do anything, but Henley's are so nebulous and undefined they could be dropped into any plot and bump along as though nothing had happened. Action, here, does not develop from character, or vice-versa. All we get is, apparently, what Henley considers to be folksy and charming banter and a few story twists.

As characters Meg, Babe and Lenny are not only uninteresting but also fairly empty, facile visions of women. They are for the most part neurotic, sort of dumb (in a charming sort of way), and not very conscious. Perhaps two steps above *Three's Company*, they are perfectly palatable and predigested for any audience. Especially any audience that didn't want to deal with real women characters. And that I suspect is the appeal of *Crimes of the Heart*. There is no challenge, no attempt to engage an audience into dealing with their own feelings or the feelings (or action) of



In a scene from *Crimes of the Heart* are (left to right) Kathy Danzer as Meg, Caryn West as Lenny and Cyd Quilling as Babe.

manipulative and exploitative of shocking situations (child abuse, nuns giving birth and hysteria, just at the top of the list), it is also true that it has real feeling behind it — and even more important, is

to spill forth from the stage and well up in the audience. It would have been nice if the play was as deep as it pretends to be, but in theater nowadays you learn to be happy with what you get.

Romanovsky and Phillips

A Musical Reaffirmation Of Lesbian and Gay Pride

By Marsha H. Levine

Men's music, though I admit I am not an expert on the subject, seems to me to have two extremes. If it isn't sleazy phrases set to that pounding disco beat, then it's sad tales of woe to bluesy tunes. I'm so used to women's music, which celebrates ourselves and our lives.

The first time I heard Ron Romanovsky and Paul Phillips, it

optimistically for the rest of the entertainment. The feeling was almost shattered by an amateur improvisation group. What kept me from leaving was an overwhelming curiosity.

Off-stage I had noticed two cute men setting aside a guitar and props. Seeing them dressed like night and day — the brunette in a loose suit jacket, a black T-shirt, corduroys, suspenders, sneakers

matter was astute. Their songs ran the gamut from serious issues to funny ones. I left Clementina's humming what I could remember, but not without asking them if they would like to perform at the Boston Lesbian/Gay Pride Rally in June. For three months I repeatedly played a three-song demo they sent me for review by the committee.

After watching them entertain an audience of 20,000 people on a beastly hot afternoon on the Boston Common, I felt sure that I had been able to enjoy and participate in what might be their history-making springboard. A Los Angeles promoter visiting town that day caught their act and spent weeks tracking them down. He invited Romanovsky and Phillips to be the lead-off set during an evening of cultural entertainment at the 8th Annual Men and Masculinity Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan last August. Reviews suggested their songs were affirming without over-stereotyping, helping to dispel many myths surrounding gayness and gay men.

The overwhelming response to their music set in motion plans for a national tour in the fall and winter. Starting in October, Ron and Paul took it on the road.

The songs were original, uplifting, warm. The Lyrics were incredibly sensitive, bordering on genius in their choice and composition.

was inadvertently. I was visiting a friend who had traded winter cold in New England for rain in San Francisco. Attempting to raise our soggy spirits, we went to Clementina's Bay Brick Inn. A gay cabaret located in a questionable area almost beneath the Oakland Bay Bridge, it showcased talent that, for the most part, was not questionable at all. Outside of trying to remain dry, our initial goal was to see Lea Di Laria, a local lesbian comic. Her flair for jazz, her stunning wit and charm, and a beautifully unique rendition of Billie Holliday's "God Bless the Child" left us satisfied and waiting

and a gray fedora hat; the blonde glittering with rhinestone earrings and bracelets, a hot pink sweatshirt a la Flashdance and black leather pants — I was struck with two conflicting thoughts. They were going to be fantastic or they were going to be a mediocre folk set. Bracing myself for the latter, I was immediately knocked right off my seat with their opening number!

The songs were original, uplifting, warm. The lyrics were incredibly sensitive, bordering on genius in their choice and composition. The conceptualization between written word and subject



Judging it the "toughest nut to crack," their first booking was at a dinner banquet in San Diego. In addition to lesbians and gay men from the community, they also entertained 59 representatives from the 2nd Annual National Lesbian/Gay Pride Coordinators'

Conference. Critics from 18 cities and 15 states who evaluate entertainers every year for their committees applauded enthusiastically after each number and gave them a standing ovation with requests for more. For nearly an hour after-

Continued on page 15

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Free To Be Me: Coming Out Slowly

With this issue GCN reinstates Coming Out, a series in which lesbians and gay men tell the stories of their learning to accept themselves, of their sexual, social, emotional and political emergence. We invite readers to submit articles for the series. They should be no longer than 1500 words and, if possible, should be typed. Send to Coming Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111.

By Deane Bailey

I was 12 when I had my first gay experience and I liked it. At the time, I didn't know the difference between gay and straight; all I knew was that it felt good.

Bob introduced me to sex that afternoon and I continued to see him because I liked what he did to me. At first it was all one way, then in time he taught me how to please him.

I was extremely shy, naive and withdrawn and I was afraid of girls. I could easily relate to men but not to women or girls, but back then I didn't know I was gay. Bob was my first love, although realization of my love came many years later when he died.

About my 16th year, I was introduced to the wearing of female clothing and used it in role playing during sex. It made me feel it was okay to have sex; it eased my guilt to perform for men in drag. The role playing continued for many years and has only recently ended. For many years, it seemed I couldn't perform unless I role played as a female. Occasionally, however, one guy or another wanted me man-to-man and I managed to accept it. I still had guilt feelings about homosexuality and refused to believe that I was gay.

At age 20, I enlisted in the Air Force. My only trauma was showering with other men. Although I wondered if they had feelings similar to mine, I wasn't bothered by

their nudity, only by my own. After boot camp, I was sent to Wichita Falls, Texas, where I met a man who propositioned me. He

Coming Out

took me to his home, plied me with beer and showed me pornographic pictures of men, then proceeded to seduce me. He soon discovered he didn't need the props.

I visited him for the remaining ten months of my training and we became good friends. It was a sad

the States and was assigned to Shreveport, Louisiana, after a 30-day leave at home.

It was nearly two months before I was to meet a man with whom I had sex. He introduced me to a gay group in the city, which turned out to be an unusual group in that we met for sex. I became an active member of the group and all was okay until I got involved with a black man. We enjoyed each other's company very much, but the all-white gay group was so upset at my friendship that they managed to get me picked up by the police. After that I was restricted in my actions until July, 1955, when I received my

He took me to his home, plied me with beer and showed me pornographic pictures of men, then proceeded to seduce me. He soon discovered he didn't need the props.

time when I shipped out overseas.

I was given a 30-day leave before going overseas and as luck had it Bob was at home at the same time, and we got it on as much as possible during our leave time. He was a lieutenant in the Air Force.

In July, 1952, I shipped overseas to Japan. Shortly after being settled, I met Ito, a sexy Japanese man who was gay. Ito made me begin to wonder if I too wasn't gay. I found myself struggling at this point. I couldn't accept myself as gay because "I still enjoyed viewing shapely women," although sex with them was not satisfying. First I dated Ito, then we lived together until I was sent to Korea in May, 1953. My tour in Korea proved uneventful except for my ten-day R-and-R to Japan with Ito.

In January, 1954, I returned to

honorable separation and returned home.

At this point I believed myself to be bisexual, still not being able to accept being gay. I continued role playing, meeting men in drag, allowing them to do with me as they wanted. I would dress in drag and drive to meet them, then return in drag.

In 1957, I reenlisted in the Air Force and was stationed at San Antonio, Texas. In San Antonio, I met two men who excited me beyond my wildest dreams. I continued to meet with them until I was sent to Fairfield, California, 40 miles northeast of San Francisco. It was while stationed there that I really began to wonder about my sexuality, whether I was gay or bisexual. I realized that I wasn't straight. I dated men predominantly. I had no close female

Continued on page 15

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Musical

Continued from page 14

wards, Romanovsky and Phillips were besieged with booking requests and tape sales.

If Ron and Paul are travelling within 100 miles of your home, the caress of their song will make the ride well worth it. You'll leave the concert feeling excited, happy, humming for days and reaffirmed in your pride to be lesbian or gay. A lesbian from Atlanta, Georgia was overheard to say of their music that "it is the most inspiring sound since women's music."

In an appearance being sponsored by Gay People at BU, Romanovsky and Phillips will perform at the Conference Auditorium at 771 Commonwealth Ave., on the Boston University Campus (take the "BC" train on the green line, just past Kenmore Sq.), at 7:00PM on Sunday, December 11. The admission will be \$2.00 with a student ID or \$3.00 without.

Other appearances on their tour include:

Nov. 11 Philadelphia
Nov. 19, 20 Albany, NY
Nov. 22 Rochester, NY
Nov. 30 Teaneck, NJ
Dec. 6 Ottawa, Ont.
Dec. 9 Portland, ME
Dec. 10 Bangor, ME

Free

Continued from page 14

companions, although I tried to see if I could get into a "normal" life.

In October, 1958, I was honorably discharged from the Air Force and returned home. On January 1, 1960, I made my first mistake: I got married. The marriage lasted only 11 days since I was unable to consummate it. It ended in annulment. This, however, did not awaken me and in 1968 I was married again. By this time I had learned to fake orgasms. This marriage lasted for two years, eight months. I still dated men on occasion, but my second wife and I managed a go until she went off the deep end and was sent to a state hospital.

Divorce had to wait until she was released. In the meantime, I continued to date men for sex and

women for companionship. In 1972 I was divorced and returned to bachelorhood.

For the next two years, I had numerous men visit me at my apartment and performed in drag with them. I believed I could only perform with men in drag.

In 1974, I began dating a female again. We became close until we began living together in 1976. That year we moved to Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and were married a year later. Our life together was fine until we were married, then it began to fall apart.

I continued to date men as often as I could get away and now began to realize my true sexuality. My wife and I joined the Berkshire Community Gay Coalition together as a gay couple. We attended crossdressing groups together. Eventually we began to swing with other couples, where the man and woman were at least

bisexual if not gay.

I began to believe myself to be gay but had extreme difficulty accepting the fact. We attended counseling and it was there that I was told that I was a homosexual. I struggled in my mind, refusing to accept it, whereas those around me easily accepted it. Our "sex life" ended, as I was advised she preferred women, since she is a lesbian, and she knew I preferred men.

Over the next few years the struggle intensified until finally I was caught in the act by my gay stepdaughter and my activity was blabbed all over the neighborhood. Then the trauma set into my mind. When I realized the trauma was my own, I came out. I finally accepted my homosexuality and my life changed. That is, I had no further fear of being found out.

I mentioned two loves during all

the years of dating men. The third and latest was a kind, loving man from Greenfield, Massachusetts, who corresponded with me and attempted to aid me in my struggle. When I spoke to him of my love, he backed off but I find to this day my love has not died. I would gladly run to him at a moment's notice.

Now that I'm out of my self-made closet and free to be me, I've decided to work for gay rights openly, to live an open lifestyle and to be me. I give a lot of credit for my self-acceptance to the Counseling Center of the Berkshires in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and to Dr. William Hydon and the Berkshire County Gay Coalition of Pittsfield for their peer counseling.

I hope in the years ahead I can find a male mate who will complement my own needs, who will want to share in my life.

Peace Call

By Betsy Duren

CAMBRIDGE, MA —

Local and national anti-nuclear groups have launched a lobbying campaign the goal of which is to stop funding for the cruise and Pershing missile deployment. The U.S. Senate passed an appropriations bill for the missiles on November 8, but still could overturn that bill before it recesses on November 18 for a six-week winter vacation.

Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) has agreed to spearhead the drive in the Senate to reverse the appropriations bill. On November 7, he met with representatives of the New England Campaign to Stop the Euromissiles, a Cambridge-based coalition of state and local groups, and agreed to circulate a letter in the Senate, addressed to President Reagan, opposing the Euromissiles. Should opinion in the Senate swing to oppose the missiles, he would then sponsor, as a rider to an unrelated bill, a resolution reversing the Euromissile appropriations.

The Campaign urges Massachusetts residents whose Senators are not on the target list to make "one phone call for peace" to a friend in a targeted state to ask that person to call her/his senator.

The Campaign has targeted the following senators: Lautenberg and Bradley, New Jersey; Hart, Colorado; Chafee and Pell, Rhode Island; Sarbanes and Mathias, Maryland; Leahy and Stafford, Vermont; Mitchell, Maine; Levin, Michigan; Bingaman, New Mexico; Biden, Delaware; Hollings, South Carolina; Inouye, Hawaii; Eagleton, Missouri; Baucus, Montana; and Cranston, California.

Mississippi

Continued from page 6

While some of Allain's campaign workers insist his reputation must be restored in order for him to function effectively as governor, that strategy will encourage those of tiny mind and dirty dealing to continue their search for assumed vulnerabilities regarding matters sexual and racial. Better to let the people of Mississippi set the state's priorities and disarm the racist homophobes with their uninterested ears.

We might wish that Bill Allain had braved the majoritarian storm in the same style as Gerry Studds, if he is indeed gay. And given the always dubious credibility of politicians, it is difficult to assess the degree to which Allain deserved voter support and even more difficult to predict whether he will continue to represent the interests of the little people of his state.

Perhaps most curious in the caper is the role played by the black drag queens. They may yet tell the most revealing — and accurate — account of the story. With all these qualifications, though, the message of 406,000 voters in Mississippi is gratifying — that fagbaiters may no longer take for granted the silent support of the people around them.

— filed from Boston

Correction

An error in layout made the last few paragraphs of Maida Tilchen's record review in Vol. 11, No. 14, incomprehensible. The end of the review should have read:

The jacket illustration by Lindsay Palermo/Designworks is outstanding, featuring musical notes coming to life as jazz musicians and hands turned into trees. A unique-looking album from a highly talented writer/performer backed by a very competent group of musicians and techs.

Debbie Fier's album *In Your Hands* is of excellent quality and sophistication, especially for a first album by a performer with mostly local experience (in the Northampton, Massachusetts, area). The album is well crafted, with production by Suzanne P. Shanbaum that takes full advantage of some terrific back-up musicians. The sound and style are jazzy and

mellow, with fine instrumentals and hot rhythms. It is music to get you relaxed and feeling good, and it projects a lot of liveliness. The lyrics are about love and friendship, with a feminist sense of values, as in the title song "In Your Hands":

Please be who you are with me

As in those deep times you're alone

Set me clear from the beginning

So it's you that I get to know.

It's really a delight to listen to women's music from three countries and especially to hear the long-awaited OVA album, which is the first women's music LP from the economically-deprived British lesbian scene. The diverse styles available this year should provide something to please everyone.

We apologize for the confusion.

A statement from Ray Flynn on gay and lesbian issues



Gay men and lesbian women face discrimination in their daily lives. The Flynn Administration will not tolerate this discrimination. Discrimination inhibits personal growth and creates barriers to mobility. We will vigorously fight discrimination on the basis of sexual preference as firmly as we will work against discrimination on the basis of race, creed, age, national origin or family status. We will:

- Make the city a model employer and hire people at all levels of city government to reflect the diversity of the city's population;
- Strengthen health care facilities for lesbians and gay men in Boston City Hospital and the neighborhood health centers;
- Work with the police department to fight crimes against the gay community; and
- Work to prevent discrimination in the housing market.

Establishing a voice in City Hall

We will hire qualified people from every community in the city to serve in city government at all levels. The City will not discriminate on the basis of sexual preference in its hiring practices. In addition,

- We will continue the position of a liaison to the gay and lesbian community. The office will serve as an advocate of gay and lesbian concerns to the administration.
- This office will establish an advisory group to assess the needs of the gay community, determine how the city should address those needs, and monitor the city's progress in eliminating discrimination.

Health Needs

We will promote quality health care programs that address the needs of the gay community in the City of Boston.

- We will assist clinics in obtaining the necessary support to provide adequate health care;
- We will continue to support efforts to combat AIDS; and
- We will support the ongoing efforts at Boston City Hospital to address health needs of the gay community.

Public Safety

Crime and the fear of crime disrupt people's lives and threaten their well-being. Many crimes are directed specifically towards the lesbian and gay communities and deserve particular attention.

- We will work with the Boston Police Department to sensitize police officers to deal with those crimes;
- We will increase police protection in all areas of the city without regard to the racial or sexual orientation of those communities; and
- We will institute regular meetings between police and gay community leaders.

Housing

Safe and affordable housing is a basic human right. It should be available to all, regardless of income, age, sex, race, national origin, or sexual preference. We will strengthen the Fair Housing Commission to respond to complaints of discrimination by any person so that all people may seek and obtain housing.

My candidacy for mayor represents an end to the politics of divisiveness in Boston. We will unite the people of this city by working on the economic issues which we share as Boston residents. We must remove the barriers of discrimination which pit one against another. As our city prospers, we will make sure that no segment of our population is left behind.

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Memoirs

Continued from page 7

junior high school superintendents, boards of Regents, guidance counsellors, task forces on delinquency, etc., etc. I say what I think right, I make passes if there is occasion, I have even made out, which is more than I can say for conferences of SDS or Resistance. Maybe such company is so square that it does not believe, or dare not notice, my behavior; or more likely, such professional square people are more worldly and couldn't care less what you do, so long as they do not have to face anxious parents and yellow press.

On the whole, although I was desperately poor up to a dozen years ago — I brought up a family on the income of a share-cropper — I do not attribute this to being queer but to my pervasive ineptitude, truculence, and bad luck. In 1944, even the Army rejected me as "Not Military Material" (they had such a stamp), not because I was queer but because I made a nuisance of myself with pacifist action at the examination center and also had bad eyes and piles.

Curiously, however, I have been told by Harold Rosenberg and the late Willie Poster, that my sexual behavior used to do me damage in precisely the New York literary world; it kept me from being invited to advantageous parties. I don't know. What I observed in the 30s and 40s was that I was excluded from the profitable literary circles dominated by Marxists and ex-Marxists, because I was kind of an anarchist. For example, I was never invited to PEN or the Committee for Cultural Freedom. Shucks! (When CCF finally got around to me at the end

somebody," but its payoff is very limited. When I give occasional talks to the Mattachine Society, my invariable pitch is to ally with all other libertarian groups and liberation movements, since freedom is indivisible. What is needed is not defiant pride and self-consciousness, but social space to live and breathe.

In my observation and experience, queer life has some remarkable political values. It can be profoundly democratizing, throwing together every class and group more than heterosexuality does. Its promiscuity can be a beautiful thing (but be prudent about VD). I myself have cruised rich, poor, middle class, and petit bourgeois; black, white, yellow, seamen, railroad men, heavy industry, light manufacturing, communications, business, and finance; civilians, soldiers and sailors, and once or twice cops. There is a kind of political meaning, I guess, in the fact that there are so many types of attractive human beings; but what is more significant is that the many functions in which I am professionally and economically engaged are not altogether cut and dried but retain a certain animation and sensuality. HEW in Washington and IS 210 in Harlem are not total wastes, though I talk to the wall in both. I have something to do at peace demonstrations — I am not inspired by guitar music — though no doubt the TV files and the FBI with their little cameras have probably caught pictures of me groping somebody. For Oedipal reasons I am usually sexually anti-semitic, which is a drag, since there are so many fine Jews. The human characteristics which are finally important to me and can win my

Given the usual coldness and fragmentation of community life at present, I have a hunch that homosexual promiscuity enriches more lives than it desensitizes. Naturally, if we had better community, we'd have better sexuality.

of the 50s, I had to turn them down because they were patently CIA.)

To stay morally alive, a nigger uses various kinds of spite, the vitality of the powerless. He can be randomly destructive; he feels he has little to lose and maybe he can prevent the others from enjoying what they have. Or he can become an in-group fanatic, feeling that only his own kind are authentic and have soul. There are queers and blacks belonging to both these parties. Queers are "artists," blacks have "soul" — this is the kind of theory which, I am afraid, is self-disproving, like trying to prove you have a sense of humor. In my own case, however, being a nigger seems to inspire me to want a more elementary humanity, wilder, less structured, more variegated, and where people have some heart for one another and pay attention to distress. That is, my plight has given energy to my anarchism, utopianism, and Gandhianism. There are blacks in this party too.

My actual political attitude is a willed reaction-formation to being a nigger. I act like "the society I live in is mine," the title of one of my books. I regard the President as my public servant whom I pay, and I berate him as a lousy worker. I am more constitutional than the supreme court.

In their in-group, Gay Society, homosexuals can get to be fantastically snobbish and a-political or reactionary, and they put on being silly like a costume. This is an understandable ego-defense: "You gotta be better than

lasting friendship are quite simple: health, honesty, not being cruel or resentful, being willing to come across having either sweetness or character on the face. As I reflect on it, only gross stupidity, obsessional cleanliness, racial prejudice, insanity, and being drunk or high really put me off.

In most human societies, of course, the sexual drive has been one more occasion for injustice, the rich buying the poor, males abusing females, ahibs using niggers, the adults exploiting the young. But I think this is neurotic and does not give the best satisfaction. It is normal to befriend what gives the best satisfaction. It is normal to befriend what gives you pleasure. St. Thomas, who was a grand moral philosopher though a poor metaphysician, says that the chief human use of sex (as distinguished from the natural law of procreation) is to get to know other persons intimately, and that has been my experience.

A criticism of homosexual promiscuity is that, rather than democracy, there is an appalling superficiality of human contact, so that it is a kind of model of the mass inanity of modern urban life. I don't know if this is generally the case; just as, of the crowds who go to art-galleries, I don't know who are being spoken to by the art and who are being bewildered further. "Is he interested in me or just in my skin? If I have sex with him, he will regard me as nothing" — I think this distinction is meaningless and disastrous; in fact, I follow up in exactly the opposite way, and many of my lifelong per-

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sonal loyalties had sexual beginnings; but is this the rule or the exception? Given the usual coldness and fragmentation of community life at present, I have a hunch that homosexual promiscuity enriches more lives than it desensitizes. Naturally, if we had better community, we'd have better sexuality.

Sometimes it is sexual hunting first of all that brings me to a

any other addict who cannot get an easy fix, they have kept me in close touch with material hunger. So I cannot take the GNP very seriously, nor the status and credentials, nor grandiose technological solutions, nor ideological politics, including ideological liberation movements. For a starving person, the world has got to come across in kind. It doesn't. I have learned to have very modest goals for society and myself, things like clean air and water, green

quate samples of all the space there is. For both good and bad, homosexual behavior retains some of the alarm and excitement of childish sexuality.

It is damaging for societies to check any spontaneous vitality. Sometimes it is necessary, but rarely; and certainly not homosexual acts which, so far as I have heard, have never done any harm to anybody. A part of the hostility, paranoia, and automatic competitiveness of our society comes from the inhibition of body contact. But in a very specific way, the ban on homosexuality damages and depersonalizes the educational system. The teacher-student relation is almost always erotic; if there is a fear and to-do that it might turn into overt sex, it either lapses or becomes sick and cruel. And it is a loss that we do not have the pedagogic sexual friendships that have starred other cultures. Needless to say, a functional sexuality is incompatible with our mass school systems. This is one among many reasons why they should be dismantled.

I recall when *Growing Up Ab-surd* had had a number of glowing reviews, finally one irritated critic, Alfred Kazin, darkly hinted that I wrote about my Puerto Rican delinquents because I was queer for them. Naturally. How could I write a perceptive book if I didn't pay attention, and why should I pay attention to something unless, for some reason, it interested me? The motivation of most sociology, whatever it is, tends to produce worse books. I doubt that anybody would say that my observations of delinquent adolescents or of collegians in the Movement has been betrayed by infatuation. But I do care for them. (Of course, *they* might say, "With such a friend, who needs enemies?")

An evil of the hardship and danger of queer life in our society, however, as with any situation of scarcity and starvation, is that we become obsessional about it. I myself have spent far too many anxious hours of my life fruitlessly cruising, which I might have spent sauntering for nobler purposes or for nothing at all, pasturing my soul. Yet I think I have had the stamina, or stubbornness, not to let my obsession cloud my honesty. I have never praised a young fellow's bad poem because he was attractive, though of course I am then especially

pleased if it is good. Best of all, of course, if he is my lover and he shows me something that I can be proud of and push. Yes, since I began this article on a bitter note, let me end it with a happy poem I like from *Hawkweed*:

We have a crazy love affair,
it is wanting each other to be happy.
Since nobody else cares for that
we try to see to it ourselves.

Since everybody knows that sex
is part of love, we make love;

when that's over we return
to shrewdly plotting the other's
advantage.

Today you gazed at me, that spell
is why I choose to live on.
God Bless you who remind me
simply
of the earth and sky and Adam.

I think of such things more than most
but you remind me simply. Man,
you make me proud to be a workman
of the Six Days, practical.

A happy property of sexual acts, and perhaps especially of homosexual acts, is that they are dirty, like life: as Augustine said, *Inter urinas et feces nascimur*. In a society as middle class, orderly, and technological as ours, it is essential to break down squeamishness, which is an important factor in what is called racism, as well as in cruelty to children and the sterile putting away of the sick and aged.

place where I meet people — e.g., I used to haunt bars on the water front; sometimes I am in a place for another reason and incidentally hunt — e.g., I call on my publisher and make a pass at a stock-boy; sometimes these are both of a piece — e.g., I like to play handball and I am sexually interested in fellows who play handball. But these all come to the same thing, for in all situations I think, speak, and act pretty much the same. Apart from ordinary courteous adjustments of vocabulary — but not of syntax — I say the same thing and do not wear different masks or find myself with a different personality. Perhaps there are two opposite reasons why I can maintain my integrity: on the one hand, I have a strong enough intellect to see how people are for real in our only world, and to be able to get in touch with them despite differences in background; on the other hand, I am likely so shut in my own perceptions that I don't even notice glaring real obstacles that prevent communication.

How I do come on hasn't made for much success. Since I don't use my wits to manipulate, I rarely get what I want; since I don't betray my own values, I am not ingratiating; and my aristocratic egalitarianism puts people off unless they are secure enough to be aristocratically egalitarian themselves. Yet the fact that I am not phony or manipulative has also kept people from disliking or resenting me, and I usually have a good conscience. If I happen to get on with someone, there is not a lot of lies and bullshit to clear away.

Becoming a celebrity in the past few years seems to have hurt me sexually rather than helped me. For instance, decent young collegians who might like me and used to seek me out, now keep a respectful distance from the distinguished man — perhaps they are now sure that I *must* be interested in their skin, not in them. And the others who seek me out just because I am well known seem to panic when it becomes clear that I don't care about that at all and I come on as myself. Of course, a simpler explanation of my worsening luck is that I'm growing older every day, probably uglier, and certainly too tired to try hard.

As a rule I don't believe in poverty and suffering as means of education, but in my case the hardship and starvation of my inept queer life have usefully simplified my notions of what a good society is. As with

grass, children with bright eyes, not being pushed around, useful work that suits one's abilities, plain tasty food, and occasional satisfactory nookie.

A happy property of sexual acts, and perhaps especially of homosexual acts, is that they are dirty, like life: as Augustine said, *Inter urinas et feces nascimur*. In a society as middle class, orderly, and technological as ours, it is essential to break down squeamishness, which is an important factor in what is called racism, as well as in cruelty to children and the sterile putting away of the sick and aged. Also, the illegal and catch-as-catch-can nature of many homosexual acts at present breaks down other conventional attitudes. Although I wish I could have had many a party with less apprehension and more unhurriedly — we would have enjoyed them more — yet it has been an advantage to learn that the ends of docks, the backs of trucks, back alleys, behind the stairs, abandoned bunkers on the beach, and the washrooms of trains are all ade-

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WOMEN PRINTERS

Typesetters, press operators, strippers, bindery-workers are invited to join us in regular potluck meetings. Compare notes about your job — hear informal talks on occupational safety, union organizing, etc. — help work on a newsletter and other projects. For meeting times and locations call 547-5038.

BOSTON LESBIAN/GAY CATHOLICS

Dignity/Boston sponsors a liturgy for Lesbian/Gay and concerned Catholics every Sunday at Arlington Street Church (Boston), right side entrance on Arlington St., at 5:30 pm. For info call Dignity/Boston MF 7-10 pm, Sun 2-5 pm, 536-6518. DIGNITY/BOSTON, 355 Boylston St., Boston, MA 02116. (c)

GAY SWITCHBOARD OF NYC

When you're in New York, give us a call for the latest information in gay and lesbian events, which bars to go to, where to stay, what group to contact, and which businesses to patronize. Call us to rap or just to say hello. (212) 777-1800 from noon til midnight.

N AMER MAN/BOY LOVE ASSOC

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For information send \$1 to: NAMBLA—GCNAD, PO Box 174, New York, NY 10018. (48)

GAY LESBIAN AND JEWISH?

Am Tikva welcomes you. Activities include religious observances, discussions, potluck dinners, folk dancing, etc. For events, check GCN Calendar. call (617) 782-8894 or write PO Box 11, Camb, MA 02238.

NGTF NEEDS YOU

Join with the largest, fastest growing gay civil rights group in the country! The National Gay Task Force works with a professional staff on media representation, national legislation, information clearinghouse, religious reforms, corporate non-discrimination work — join now. \$20 membership (\$5 limited income) includes Newsletter. NGTF, 80 Fifth Ave. Rm. 1601, New York, NY 10011.

Are you interested in forming a gay Communal Retirement Center? Join others in the Ganymede Society who are forming now. Write: Ganymede Society, c/o Karl Volk, 43 Whittier Blvd, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

GCN SPECIALS

TURKEY STUFFING

Okay, Friday Folders, what d'ya say we make it a Wednesday? We'll be sending the paper out the day before Thanksgiving, Nov 23. The more hands, the better, so come by, help us out, and have a good time even. Thanks. (19)

DEAR ADVERTISER

Racism is one of the uglier aspects of our culture. We at GCN abhor it, and hope that our readers share our views. We therefore ask that you do not include race in the description of an individual you are seeking to meet through our personal ads. It is illegal for us to specify a race preference in any other kind of ad (roommate, apartment, etc.). However, if you wish to identify yourself as being of a particular racial or ethnic background, there is no harm in that. Thank you.

GCN Office Manager (Mike) needs some help with a few projects. One is doing a headline index of past articles in GCN. The other is setting up some metal shelving for our archives of past issues of other gay publications. If you can help with either, please call Mike at 426-4469. Thank you.

BOSTON GAY HISTORY

We are seeking information on Scollay Square and its immediate surroundings during and before World War II, especially on the Imperial Cafe and Hotel as a cruising and drinking spot for seamen, as well as the Old Howard Burlesque on Howard St. and the Casino Burlesque on Hanover St., the 5c all-night movie theaters. Any contributions will be greatly appreciated. Please write Freddie Greenfield, c/o GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111 or call (617) 426-4469 and leave a message so we can set up an interview.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!!

People have been leaving classifieds downstairs by our front door early in the morning (late at night??). Please, do not do that. We often do not receive them. Thank you.

BED US!

Well, cot us, anyway. We would really appreciate it if someone would give us a cot or two. We have several staffers with bad backs and a cot to lie down on during the day would help them tremendously. If you want to give us one, please call Michael 426-4469. Thanks.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS

Thanksgiving comes but once a year and this year the GCN staff wants to celebrate it by going home early. That means the deadlines for all ads have to be moved up. Therefore, the classified ads must be in our hands no later than noon on Monday, November 21, 1983. Please make a note of this, forgive the inconvenience and have a happy holiday. Thank you.

TRADING POST

We are beginning a new category for those who want to trade goods and/or services. Think about it. Maybe you have a talent and you need something done. Offer your skill in exchange for someone else's. Or maybe someone gave you a coffee maker for Christmas and you have a coffee maker, but you don't have a blender. So offer to swap... Got the idea??? The only rule is that no money is to change hands.

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For Sale: 1970 Karmann Ghia. Engine runs, needs rebuilding Body fair, interior & chassis good. \$250 or best offer. 648-7612, 7-10 PM. (c)

PAT BOND READS ON TAPE

Pat Bond reads "The Songs of Belittis," erotic lesbian poetry. The tape is \$10 plus \$1.00 postage & handling. To: Pat Bond, 211 Canal #11, San Rafael, CA 94901. (25)

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It's a red and green satin pouch with bells!! New-Sexy-Fun! A great stocking gift. Send \$13.95 plus \$1 postage to Naughty Nightie, 12 Beverly Hills Ave. Beverly, MA 01915. (20)

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L 30 lkg to meet other lesbians in the Winthrop area for wkend brunches. walks on the beach. good conversation. music. art & movies. Am not into bars. making it difficult to meet lesbians & establish friendships. Please contact GCN Box 749. (18)

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LF GCNer sks lesbian household in Cambridgeport/Central Sq area. Non-smoker, likes all food, except egg salad, likes all animals, especially slugs. Call 426-4469, Hershey. (c)

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Resp quiet LF writer sks studio or 1 bdrm—Camb, Somvl pref hse 1 cat Dec 1. Good refs Cris 787-3571 eves 491-6204 leave msg. (19)

MISCELLANEOUS

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LF seeking to form prose writers' group on South Shore. Send inquiries/writing samples to Carrie PO Box 2216, Abington, MA 02351-0716. (19)

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THERAPY GROUP FOR MEN
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We send free papers, books (when they are donated and when money for postage is donated) and run free penpal ads. (There's sometimes a long waiting list because of limited space.) Little by little as we get more volunteer labor power we'll be looking for other ways to support lesbians and gay men behind bars. If you can help with your time or a contribution (of money or paperbacks), please send to Gay and Lesbian Prisoner Project, c/o GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111. Thanks!

ON 'COMING OUT'

One sure way to make it hard for prisoners coming out of prison to make it on the outside is to keep them from getting jobs and housing. This is just what this society does with its attitudes toward ex-prisoners. Don't be surprised if a penpal asks for some help in finding work or a place to live. Their getting out on parole this year, rather than next, may depend on finding these (or a 'sponsor'), and their staying out will certainly depend on it. The GCN Prisoner Project is always looking for info on jobs and housing resources in all regions of the country. Start your own prisoner project at a prison near you (the most effective place to be) by getting together and updating this kind of info and making it available to the prisoners who are coming out.

Prisoners Seeking Friends

NOTE TO PRISONERS: SINCE WE HAVE ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF PAPERS TO SEND OUT TO PRISONERS, PLEASE DON'T ASK FOR A COPY FOR YOURSELF IF YOU CAN READ ONE THAT SOMEONE ELSE THERE IS GETTING. THANKS!

The North American Man/Boy Love Association (NAMBLA) Bulletin is available to persons who are imprisoned for having sex with minors. Contact Rock Thatcher, PO Box 10675, Phoenix AZ 85064.

If you're interested only in a young spring chicken, cutie pie, then I'm not what you're looking for. However, I do consider myself good looking and would like to write some caring person. Richard YERTY, PO Box 217, Yanceyville NC 27379.

I'm a former school teacher and would like to develop a relationship. Prefer black lovers, Cancer 18-40. Richard ALLEN, ('the teacher'), 173-643, Box 5500, Chillicothe, OH 45601.

POETS!

A new, anti-authoritarian poetry mag called "Seditions Delicous" wants poetry in any style, traditional to punk. We will print those that we feel most poetically and scurrilously subvert the system of statism, militarism, racism, sexism, classism, gay and lesbian oppression, ageism, or any of the other nasty power trips we have to deal with. "Seditions Delicous" will be free, and a special effort will be made to distribute it to prisoners. All those who send material will get a copy whether their stuff appears or not. If you want your material returned to you, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Seditions Delicous, PO Box 6981, NYC 10150.

I like to pencil sketch, write poetry, music and the finer things in life. Would like to write to sincere and caring men. I really get turned on by moustaches and guys over 30 so please let's get communicating. Doug FLEMING, 1878 Box 60, Mission B.C., Canada V2V 4L8. (Same postage for Canada as for US.)

Musician, college grad would like to correspond with all who are interested in real friendship from someone just coming out in life. Jerry GABELL, Box 1100-1707, Avon Park FL 33825.

I like to read, take quiet walks, homebody, enjoy most sports, and also like the theater. Would like to converse with someone out there. Thomas VEIHMAYER, 073777, Box 1100 - 1332, Avon Park FL 33825.



TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE (Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist).



Hello! I got your address from New Dawn who I was hoping to find some gay women with but they want a fee which I can't afford but they were kind enough to give me your name and address. I appreciate any help you can give me in finding gay women who'd like to write. Thank you, Leah LAWONN, 33588, PO Box 3400, Goodyear AZ 85338.

I'd like very much to receive your newspaper and to be added to your penpal list, in hopes of corresponding with fems only. I'm very affectionate and sensitive and looking for some serious correspondence with a loving woman. Noradean ALEXANDER, 15614B, 1479 Collins Ave., Marysville OH 43040.



I enjoy being close to men, and especially boys and would enjoy writing to someone who is like me so we can share our interests. I hope this is enough about me. Your boyloving friend. John W. Temmon, 103674, Box 548, Lexington OK 73051.

I would be glad to hear from any sexy and intelligent men out there, especially if they like stuff by Malcolm X, George Jackson and other great black leaders. Also, I sure could use some legal advice since these people are giving me quite a hard time in here because of my being gay and proud of it. Ronald FRIDGE, PO Box 825 MSU, Smyrna DE 19977.

I'd like to write to someone from the outside world, someone that could help me get started with some hobby supplies and someone that I could send my finished goods to to repay them for their kindness. Larry NEUMAN, 46424, 2605 State St., Salem OR 97310.

Scottish citizen. Willing to be very open. Not trying to con or hustle anybody out of anything, just want to establish a friendship with someone special. Freddie JACKSON, 076794, PO Box 488-B20, Polk City FL 33868.

Gay black male, 39, sensitive, mature individual looking for serious minded person who would enjoy sharing their feelings and thoughts. A.E.DANIELS, 149-846, PO Box 69, London OH 43140.





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